



A TOUR OF CONFUCIUS' HOMETOWN

Adventure into Demon's Ravine in Xinjiang

Xuanzhong Monastery — Birthplace of Sukhavati Sect

Solo Motorcycle Trip to Gansu's Huangcheng Grassland

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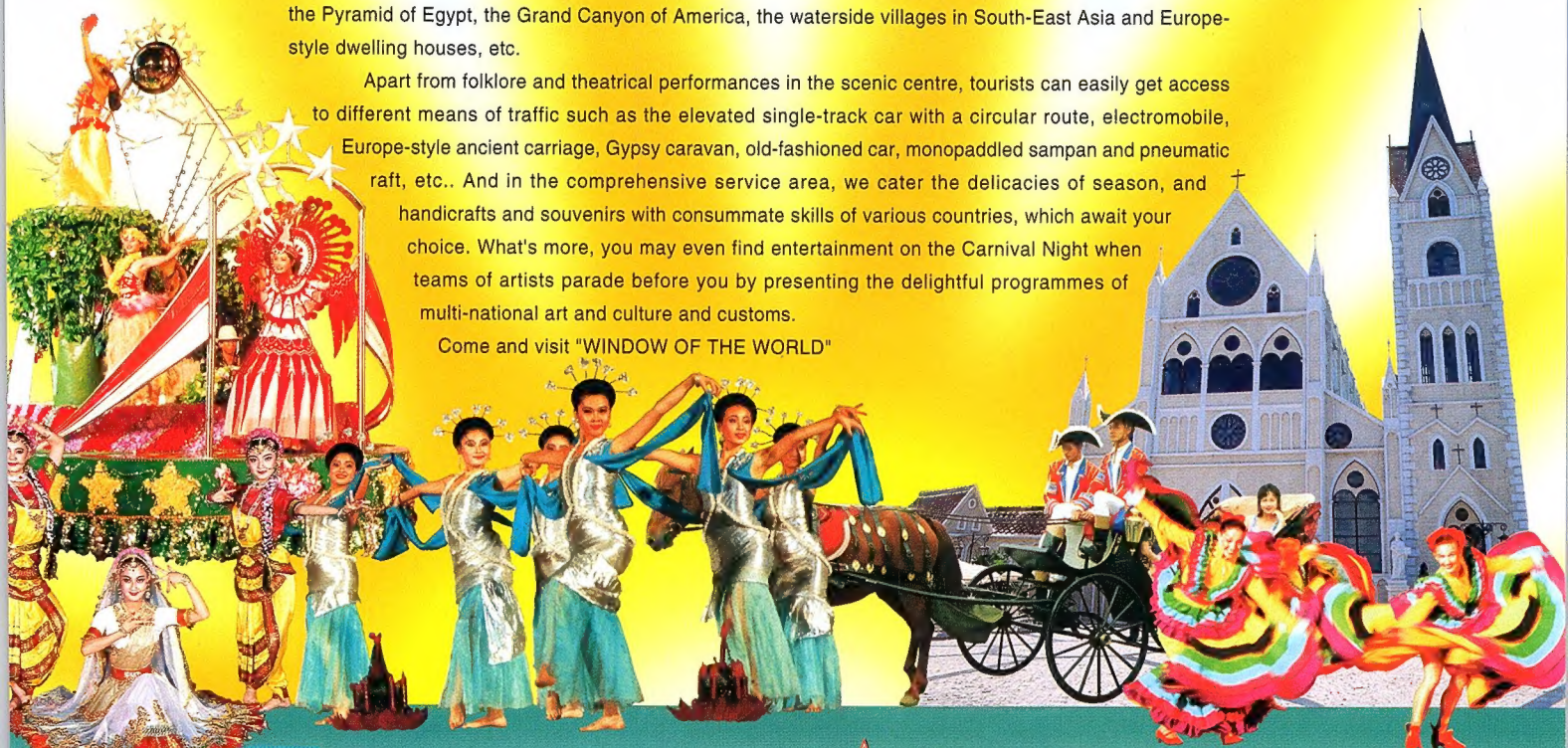
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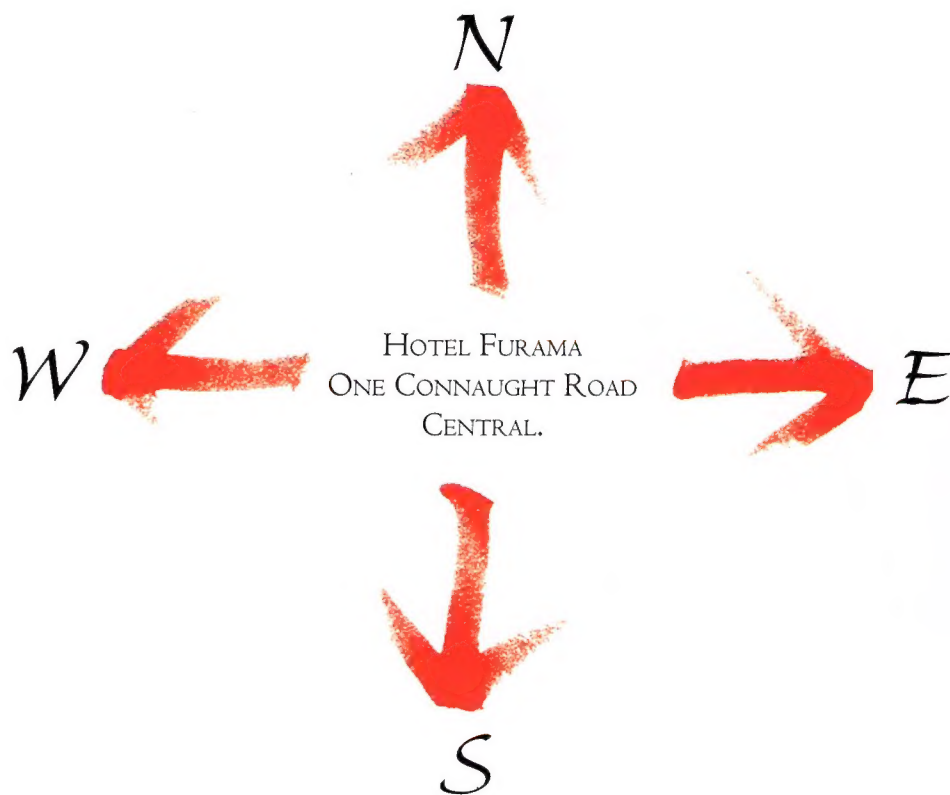
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CHINA'S WISDOM

Confucius is often taken as synonymous with Chinese civilization. It is said that if one wants to truly appreciate the evolution of Chinese culture, one must first have a profound understanding of the teachings and theories of this wise, old sage.

Born in 551 B.C., Confucius led a humble, if not destitute, life. It was only after his death that ensuing emperors began to appreciate his doctrines, in fact, many adopted them to rule over the populace. Temples were erected in his name and great honours and privileges were bestowed on his family, raising their status to one higher than any court official. And so it is that we take you this month to his hometown, Qufu in Shandong Province, to visit the sprawling Confucius Mansion with its 450 halls and Confucius Temple, more lavish than the Imperial Palace. We visit Confucius Forest, where the great sage and his direct family descendants are buried in an immense maze of temples, tombstones, sculptures and cypress trees. It is the world's largest family burial site.

From ghosts to demons... we journey into the tortured landscape of Demon's Ravine. Lying to the south of Tianshan Mountains the Qoltag extends eastwesterly for 200 kilometres over the territories of Kuqa, Xinhe, Baicheng and Wensu counties. Steep, russet-coloured mountains whipped by years of high, dry winds have created a dismal wilderness and left behind a beehive of spurs and depressions looking like hoards of ferocious demons. Yet, it is strewn with grottoes and ruins of ancient fortresses dating back to the Han and Tang dynasties, making it worthy of a visit.

In complete contrast, our reporter takes his steely motorbike on a solo tour through the grasslands of Huangcheng in Gansu Province. Cruising over luscious, green marshlands he tries to stay one step ahead of a rainstorm!



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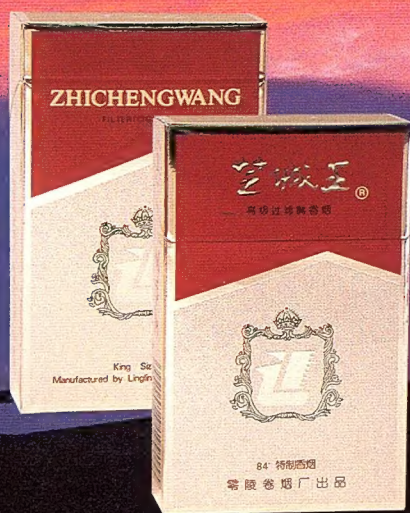
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C O N T E N T S



A Tour of Confucius' Hometown

A guided tour to Qufu, the hometown of Confucius, in Shandong Province. Visit with us the 450 halls of the Confucius Mansion and Temple which dominate the town, and marvel at the vast number of tombstones in Confucius Forest.



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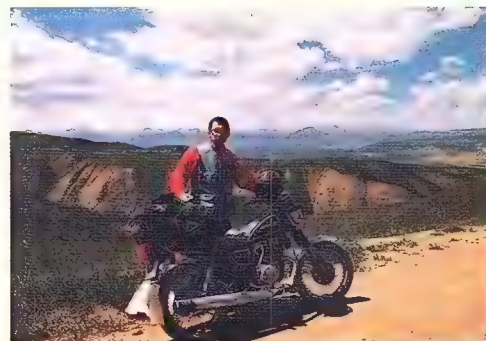
"Yan Can Cook" in Luoyang and Shaolin Temple

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A Solo Motorcycle Trip to Huangcheng Grassland

Splashing through mountain streams, being chased by rainstorms and sheltered by the friendly Yugur people make this solo adventure through the lush grasslands of Huangcheng an enjoyable experience our reporter would willingly repeat.

Adventure into Demon's Ravine — A Visit to the Valley of Xinjiang's Kuqa River

Proof of the bizarre work of nature is evident on this journey along the Kuqa River Valley in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, witnessing the Yardangs and tortured landscapes.

Front Cover: A mural at the Confucius Temple depicting Confucius discussing political affairs with the king of the State of Qi (by Shan Xiaogang)



A TOUR OF CONF

TOURIST HIGHLIGHTS — HOME OF CONFUCIUS



UCIUS' HOMETOWN

A painting of Confucius



Confucius, the well-known philosopher, statesman, educator and founder of the Confucian school was an important figure in Chinese history during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). One might even say that to understand the essence of traditional China and its long history, one must start with the study of Confucius and his academic theory which has had great influence on Chinese and oriental culture, national psychology and social development. Therefore, to embark on a tour of Qufu in Shandong Province, the hometown of Confucius, is to embark on a journey of study.

A scene of Confucius teaching his 72 disciples inside the Six Skills Centre





孔子

THE WISEST MAN ON EARTH

周遊列國十四年之後，
孔子於六十八歲時
回到魯國，專心從事
教育與著述，成為
「萬世師表」

In feudal times, Confucius was respected as the Sage, regarded as the Teacher of All Generations and posthumously entitled Holy Teacher. Since the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), Confucian theory had become the orthodox ideology of feudal society and Confucius had become deified and idolized. The influence that Confucius held should not be underestimated, otherwise he would not have been cited one of mankind's top 10 historical figures and regarded as "The Wisest Man on Earth".

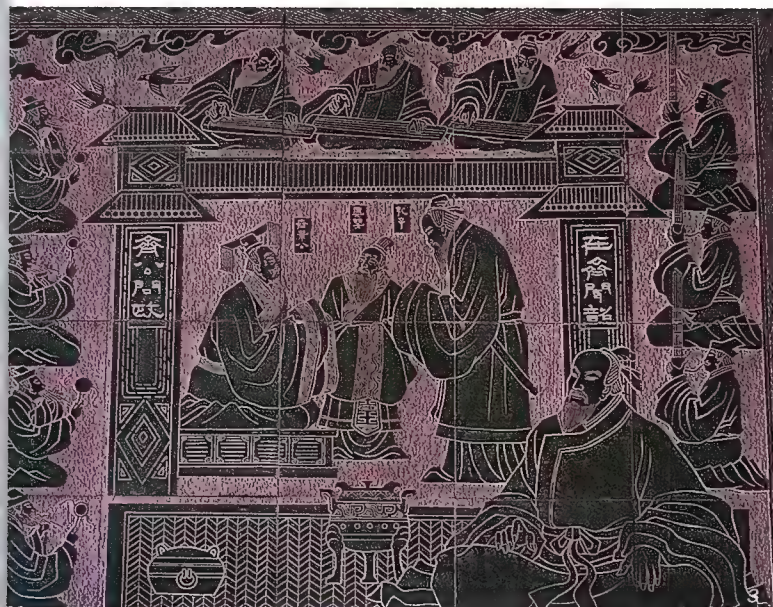
POLITICAL VIEWS REJECTED

In 551 B.C., Confucius was born into a small noble family in Zouyi of the State of Lu (to the south of today's Qufu). He was known as Kong Qiu (meaning hill) because he was born with some lumps on top of his head. He also had another name Zhong Ni since he was born at Nishan Hill. Confucius' father Shuliang He, was once a minister in the State of Lu but died when Confucius was only three years old. Because of the family's decline, his mother took him to live in the capital. Confucius had a poor childhood and grew up to become an accountant and was once in charge of animal husbandry. In his middle age, he began to have disciples and started his educational career. At 50, he was appointed the title of Magistrate of Zhongdu and became an official in charge of construction and then of justice. At 54, he resigned and began his travels to the states of Wei, Cao, Song, Chen, Cai and Cui in order to preach his own political views. But none of the kings of the states accepted him or his teachings. After 14 years of travelling from state to state, he returned to Lu at the age of 68 and devoted himself to education and writing. He wrote songs, composed music and compiled *The Spring and Autumn Annals*. In 479 B.C. Confucius died at the age of 73 and was buried next to the Sihe River to the north of Lu City.



"DO NOT IMPOSE ON OTHERS WHAT YOU YOURSELF DO NOT DESIRE"

As the founder of Confucianism, he advocated the human qualities of "kindness" and "ethics" which represented most of his political views. Confucius held that "kindness" meant "love of others", that if you want "to establish yourself you should first establish others, and if you want "to reach a goal yourself you should first help others to reach theirs", and "do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire".



Confucius held that “one should devote one’s self to study at 15,” and to learn from anyone who had a professional skill. It was said that he had learned rites from Lao Zi, music from Chang Hong and the zither from Shi Xiang. He was eager to learn throughout his life, and did not feel ashamed to be educated by people below him. Even in his later years, he still studied so hard that he even forgot to take his meals and was so happy that he excluded worries, never realizing that he was getting old. He had many mottoes to aid study, such as “frequent review of what you have learned”, “gaining new knowledge by reviewing old”, “drawing inferences to other

cases from one instance” and “learning without thought is labour lost, but thought without learning is perilous”. These mottoes have been passed down to the present day and are followed by many people.

Confucius had a down-to-earth attitude. He maintained that you should “say you know when you know and say you do not when you do not”. Although he was a man of great learning and enjoyed a high reputation at that time, he was still very modest.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

The greatest achievements Confucius made in his whole life were in education. He was the first to offer private lectures, and adhered to the theory that “in education there should be no class distinction”. He changed “study in official mansions” to “study everywhere” and extended education to include not only nobles but also the common people.

It was said that Confucius had 3,000 disciples, of whom 72 were well known. Confucius was tireless in the task of lecturing to his students “according to each other’s conditions”, he employed teaching techniques

which benefited the students as well as the teacher and, by giving systematic guidance he believed, students would not quit. Instead, they would progress gradually. However, he despised learning about farm work or horticulture.

NOTED DESCENDANTS

Most of those who married their sons or daughters to the Confucius family were nobility. For example, in the Qing Dynasty, one of Emperor Qianlong’s princesses became a daughter-in-law to the Confucius family. Following the teachings of their forefather, many of Confucius’ descendants became established officials or noted scholars. Kong Ji, Confucius’ grandson, wrote the book *Zhong Yong* (*The Doctrine of the Mean*) which further developed Confucius’ ideas on “the golden mean”. Kong Shangren of the Qing Dynasty was the author of *The Peach Blossom Fan*, a famous play applauded by people down the centuries. Kong Decheng from the 77th generation in the family used to be director of the Institute of Examinations in Taiwan. Kong Demao, the family’s only direct descendant now living in the mainland of China, is based in Beijing. She goes to visit her hometown every year, paying her respects to her ancestors and taking part in the Confucian Culture Festival activities. 

Photos by Shan Xiaogang

Article by Kang Jie

Translated by M.Q.

1. A stone statue in front of the Golden Thread Hall
2. A Ming-dynasty painting of “Confucius Teaching at Xingtan”
3. A fresco inside Confucius Temple
4. Madam Tao, concubine of Kong Yinshi from the 65th generation in the Confucius family
5. Kong Lingyi, the 76th generation
6. Kong Shangxian, the 64th generation



乳脂的軟化，
 因此對中國第一
 處保存建築群
 北所故宮，但萬機座
 主要確切，相比
 故宮三大殿
 還要精美

曲阜三孔

Confucius Temple:

The No. 1 Temple on Earth

For any visitor to Qufu, Shandong Province, not to see the Confucius Temple is a sin tantamount to not seeing the Forbidden City while visiting Beijing.

The temple, used throughout the dynasties to offer sacrifices in memory of Confucius, was first built in 478 B.C. when Duke Xiang of the State of Lu decided to turn the great sage's former residence into a temple. With the passage of time, emperors of successive dynasties relied more and more on the wisdom of Confucius' ethics to consolidate their rule. Subsequently, the worship of Confucius escalated. For more than 2,000 years, the temple continued to expand. By the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, it had taken on the shape of a magnificent architectural compound, stretching for over a kilometre. In terms of grandeur, it was second only to the Forbidden City in the capital of Beijing.

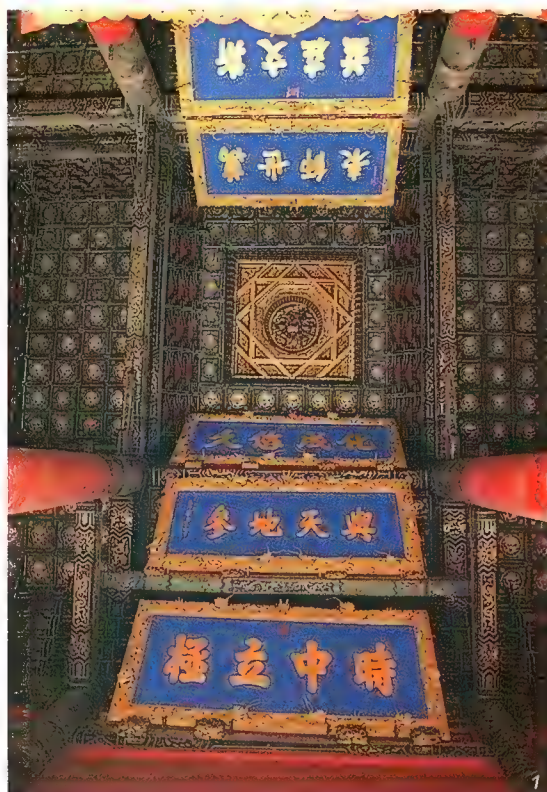
BRESPECTED ABOVE EMPERORS

Apart from its early grandeur and elegance, much of the magnificence of the Confucius Temple was the result of approval by the rulers of the Ming and Qing dynasties for the temple to enjoy the highest architectural standards, in the same way as the royal palaces. Indeed, the last large-scale repair and expansion conducted under the personal guidance of Emperor Yongzheng (r. 1723-1735) gave the temple its present shape and size. The nine great halls, nine courtyards and the nine bays of rooms in each courtyard, the five major gates, the yellow tiles, the dragon-

coiled pillars and corner towers are all usually associated with the residence of an emperor, and in many ways are even more elaborate. Hence it has become known as the "Number One Temple on Earth".

The main part, called Dacheng Hall, was where most of the sacrificial activities took place. Its meticulous carvings and beautiful coloured paintings are the result of six years work by more than 30,000 artisans.

The most striking features of this hall are the dragon-coiled pillars supporting the surrounding open corridors. These wonders of stone sculpture, unique to the Confucius Temple, outshine even the gilded dragon pillars of the Golden Throne Hall in the Forbidden City. Precisely because of this, it is said that officials covered up the dragon pillars with red and golden silk, nominally to dress up the temple to welcome the arrival of the emperor, but in reality, they were afraid of annoying him. Emperor Qianlong (r. 1726-1795), however, believed that Confucius should be held in greater esteem than emperors and therefore did not allow local officials to cover the pillars. It is said the emperor was transfixed the first time he saw them.



大成殿是奉祀的主要場所，
其四周前檐下的10根
是浮雕蟠龍石柱，把富麗的
貼金雕柱顯出下去了



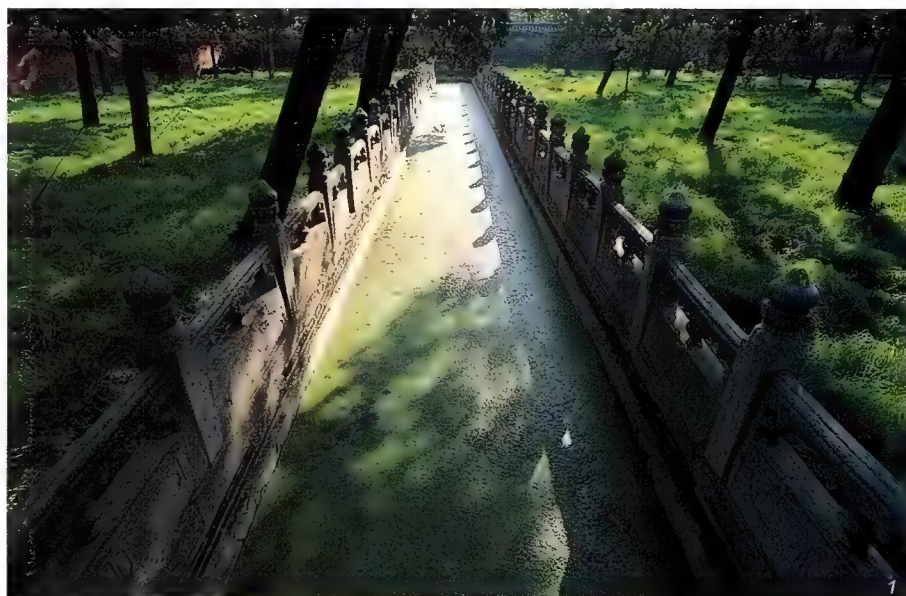
1. Horizontal inscribed boards enlogizing Confucius Thread Hall of the Confucius Temple
2. This statue of the Great Sage, Confucius, in the Dacheng Hall is an imitation of the first one made during the reign of Emperor Yongzheng (1723-1735) of the Qing Dynasty.
3. Scholars and tourists alike have their pictures taken in front of Lingxing Gate.
4. Enjoying the special treatment reserved for emperors in the past, imitation ancient carriages carry people through the Sage's Gate.

TOPESS CYPRESSES AND COUNTLESS DRAGONS

In the temple the Kuiwen Tower, one of the ten most famous in ancient China, houses the works of Confucius as well as books given by emperors as gifts. Still magnificent after 700 years, it houses many huge stone tablets carved mostly with eulogies of Confucius, as well as records of sacrificial rituals and temple repairs. Exquisite paintings and calligraphy from various dynasties displayed here are also a great tourist attraction.

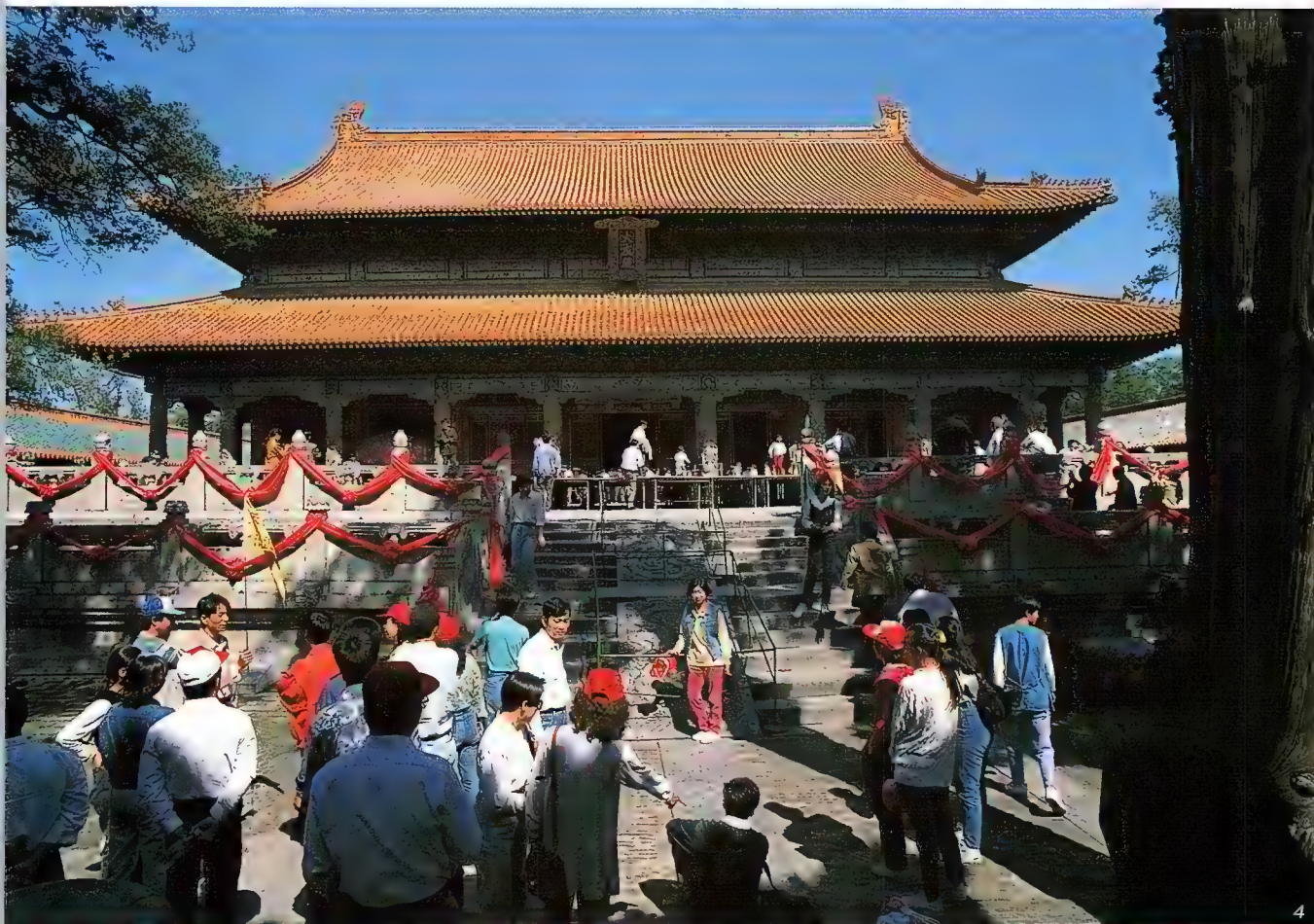
What deserves special mention are the "four wonders" located at Confucius Temple, Confucius Mansion and Confucius Forest. One is the "topless cypress trees" lining the road leading to the temple. A closer look reveals that the trunks of several hundred aged cypresses have intertwined with each other, their branches spreading out to form a huge canopy. They grow in such a way that the tops seem to be flat.

Another wonder is the great number of carved dragons. The palace-like temple is abundant with brightly-coloured

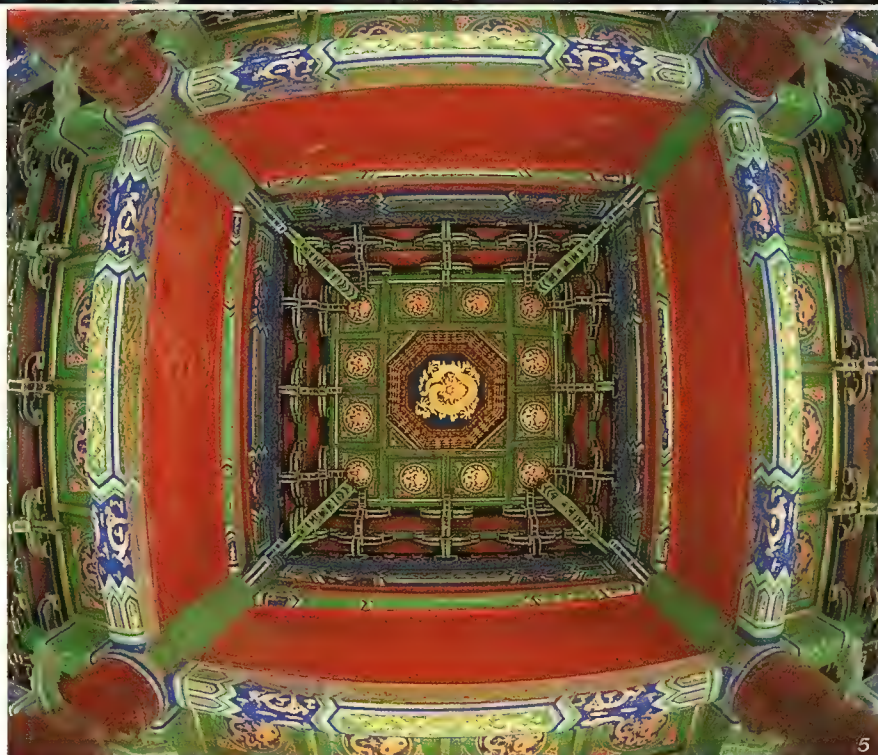


dragon patterns in every medium: stone, wood, clay, and in every shape, size and pose. The 18 pillars around the hall alone are said to be carved with 1,296 dragons. Whether you are able to search them all out or count them all would be an interesting test!

Photos by Shan Xiaogang
Article by Kang Jie
Translated by Huang Youyi



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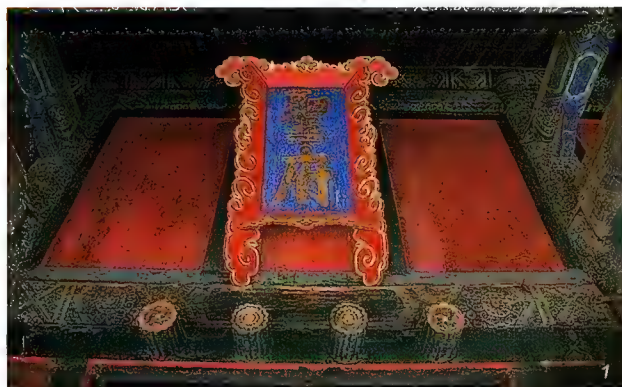


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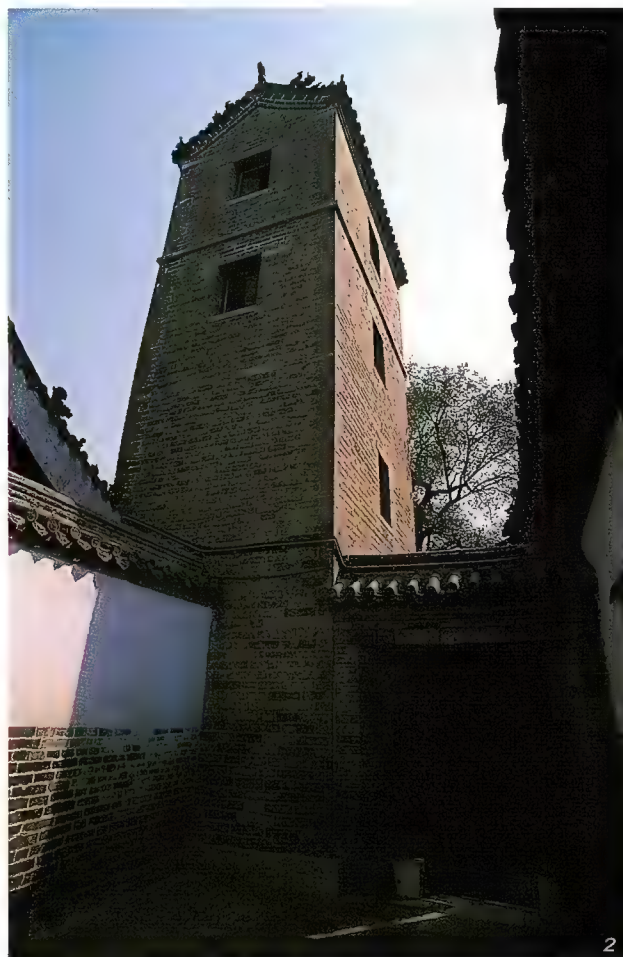
1. Water protected by meticulously-made balustrades
2. The Tongwen Gate, the entrance to the Confucius Temple
3. This stone figure in the Pavilion of Han Stone Sculpture is over 1,800 years old.
4. The Grand Hall here, together with the Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City and the Sky Watching Hall at the Temple of Mount Tai, are known as the "Three main halls of the Orient".
5. An ancient well in the Confucius Temple (by Yi Ming)

當年孔府官邸
只要手持孔府大鑒內的
的任何一塊鑒版
進京，朝見皇帝
便無須稟報，
出入京城暢通無阻

Confucius Mansion: Home to the Sage's Descendants



孔府大門殿前的
對聯中，「富」字少了一
一筆，象徵着孔府的
富貴無邊無際，
沒有盡頭



Right in the heart of Qufu City, to the east of the Confucius Temple, stands the Confucius Mansion, home to the direct male descendants of Confucius.

Although held in high esteem as a sage, Confucius led a very poor and destitute life. It was to be his descendants who would enjoy all the comforts of wealth.

POSITION AND POWER GRANTED BY THE EMPEROR

Kong Zongyuan, the 46th generation grandson of Confucius, was given the title of Duke of Yansheng by the Song Court. Since then Confucius' descendants have held the title for more than 880 years, right down to the 70th generation. Rebuilt many times, the mansion presently dates from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The place is a maze of 460 halls, rooms and buildings, and requires a compass to get around. The mansion is the most sumptuous aristocratic lodging in China. Confucius' descendants were ennobled and granted great privileges by the emperors. They lived like kings, with 180-course meals, servants and consorts. Interestingly, the character "wealth" in the couplet hung on the pillars of the entrance gate has the top stroke missing. This marked one of the precepts of the Confucius household that there was no ceiling to the family's wealth.

The title of the Duke of Yansheng carried with it unlimited privileges, being unaffected by the changing dynasties in feudal China. In fact, it ranked higher than that of all court officials and secretaries. The title holder was even allowed to tread

the royal path, usually reserved for emperors alone. The Confucius family thus became China's most noble household, and became known as the Number One Family Under Heaven.

LIKE THE IMPERIAL PALACE

The city of Qufu, which grew around the mansion, was an autonomous state administered by the duke who had powers of taxation and execution. The buildings in the front part of the Confucius Mansion resembled closely the three halls and six houses in the Forbidden City.

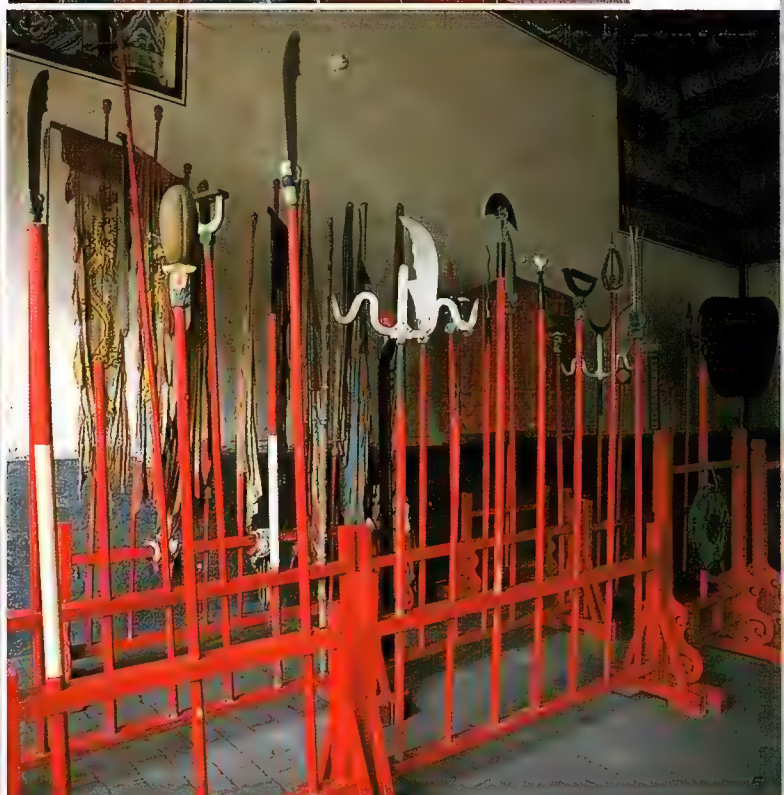
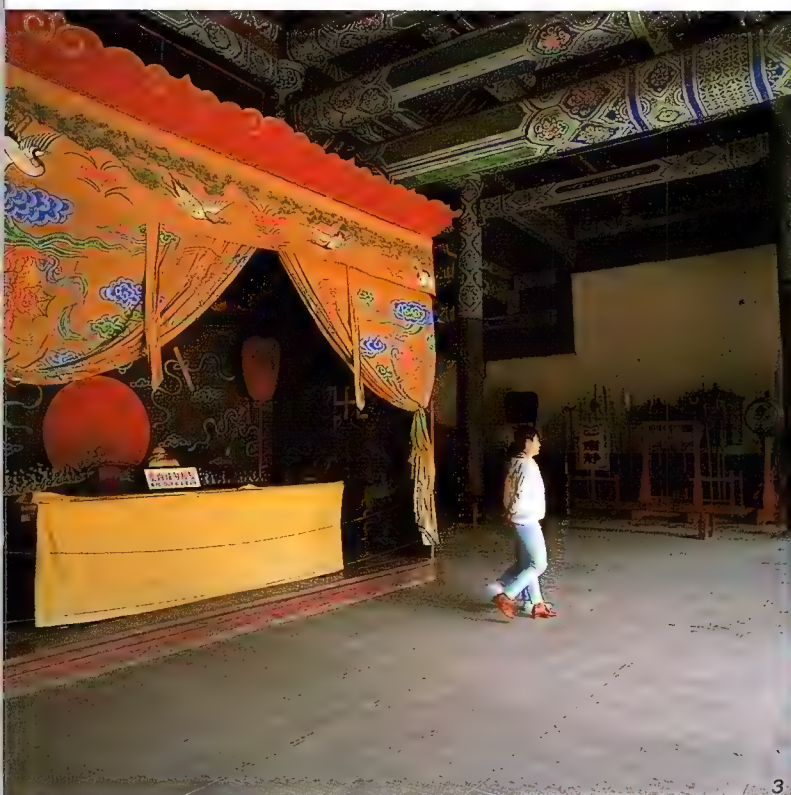
In the first hall stand the truncheons symbolizing top-ranking nobility, 18 chime plates and a royal carriage. It is said that when officials from the Confucius Mansion were sent to the capital to see the emperor, they did not need to wait to be announced but could walk straight to the emperor as long as he held any one of the 18 chime plates and rode in the royal carriage. Of course, all the way to the palace the carriage would be given right of way.

The west chamber inside the first courtyard served as a reception room for officers under the seventh rank who had to wait here until announced. The east chamber housed clerks whose job it was to collect taxes, such as grain for men and fodder for animals.

The second hall was where the duke met officials above the fourth rank and also where he enacted some of the royal privileges, such as testing and selecting students of etiquette and music. Long red benches in the corridor were where even senior secretaries of the imperial court had to wait until announced.

The third hall was where the duke presided over official affairs and meted out family discipline to his kindred. As he took his seat, the chime plates were sounded; when he cast a red slip, someone would immediately be arrested; when he cast a green

1. Gate-like, this marks the forbidden area in the mansion.
2. The Shelter Tower at the southeast corner of the inner quarters was built for Confucian family members to take shelter when under attack.
3. The Dacheng Hall in the Confucius Temple was where the dukes read out decrees, met with officials and dealt with serious cases.
4. The handwritten sign on the gate to the inner quarters of Confucius Mansion forbids any outsiders to enter.
5. The objects in this hall are symbols of the first-ranking nobility.





slip, the accused would be tortured, and when he cast a handful of green slips, the accused would be executed.

THE OLDEST FAMILY ARCHIVES IN THE WORLD

As in royal palaces, the living quarters of the Confucius Mansion were forbidden areas with a sign hung on the gate to bar outsiders. Arms given by emperors were strategically placed and the area patrolled by guards. Any intruder would simply be "beaten to death".

The liaison between the inner quarters and the outside depended purely on errand boys. Even water carriers could only go as far as a trough called "Stone Water Runner" on the west wall of the living quarters. Then the water was passed on by maids to the inner quarters.

Though the Confucius Mansion does not match the Forbidden City in structure, one is still greatly surprised by the luxury of the living quarters, the elegance of the interior and the value of the ornaments. Also kept in the mansion is the oldest and most complete collection of family archives, containing written materials from the Ming Dynasty up to 1948. *The Confucius Genealogy* is now the earliest complete family archive existing in the world today.



Photos by Shan Xiaogang
 Article by Kang Jie
 Translated by Huang Youyi



1. Living quarters in the Confucius Mansion (by Yi Ming)
2. Male servants were not allowed into the living quarters. They poured water into the trough against the wall and maids would transfer the water into the living quarters.
3. Tomb of Confucius in the Confucius Forest
4. Gate and archway in the Confucius Forest
5. Stone tablets and sculptures in the Confucius Forest (by Liu Pit Mui)

孔子墓起初

沒有高土隆起，

隨著孔子地位不斷

提高，「孔林」

擴建成為比

曲阜城的面積

還要大的地方

repairs and expansion. Stone archways were erected, walls built, trees planted and guards enrolled to guard the compound. By 1730, the mausoleum had reached its present size of 200 hectares, even larger than the city of Qufu.

TOMB ARRANGEMENTS BY GENERATION

For over 2,500 years the family cemetery received and accepted new arrivals. Today, there are more than 60 structures, over 20,000 tombstones, in excess of 2,000 stone guardians and over 100,000 tombs! There is no way of telling just how many Confucius' kinsfolk have been buried here. What is apparent is the chilling atmosphere which one detects upon setting foot in the forest. Row upon row of densely packed tombs stand awesomely. Under the shade of pine and cypress trees and Chinese junipers lies a stone terrace in front of the tomb of Confucius. To the east is the tomb of his son Kong Li, and to the south is that of his grand-



Confucius Forest: The Largest Family Mausoleum



North of the Confucius Mansion and two kilometres north of Qufu lies the Confucius Forest. It acts as the family mausoleum for Confucius and his descendants.

After Confucius' death, his disciples had given him a very simple burial, without building a tumulus. Sometime during the Qin and Han period (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) an elevated tomb was erected. At this time the mausoleum was still small in size. As the teachings of Confucius grew in popularity, the Confucius Forest continued to expand. Each dynasty requisitioned further



son Kong Ji. This clear arrangement by generation has been observed till this day.

Among the countless tombs, some belong to his immediate blood relatives while others belonging to distant relatives with the same surname. Kong Shangren, the famous calligrapher and author of *The Peach Blossom Fan*, and Kong Jisu, author of *Writings from the Yuhong Tower* were outstanding people of great talent. However, as they were not the eldest, direct descendants in the family line, neither of them had the opportunity to inherit the title of Duke of Yansheng.

Both in terms of history and size, the Confucius Forest is the largest and most intact family burial ground, as well as being the only family mausoleum in the world that has lasted this long.

Photos by Shan Xiaogang
Article by Kang Jie
Translated by Huang Youyi



六藝城

New Disciples of Confucius in
"Six Skills" Centre



以孔子倡導的

六門技藝

為主線設計的大型

現代綜合性

遊樂中心，讓人

「溫故而知新」

A bronze statue of Confucius on his travels among the states



Confucius spent a lifetime devoted to the art of study, and his hard work achieved wonderful results. In his early years, Confucius was already a learned and multi-talented man. In his later years he travelled among the states and started to write books, forming his own doctrine. He practised what he advocated, and learned Liuyi (Six Skills) — etiquette, music, calligraphy, mathematics, archery and horse-riding — to improve his quality of life, while at the same time cultivating himself through meditation.

In a sense, the six skills have become synonymous with Confucius. Recently a large, modern recreation centre called the “Six Skills City” was built in Qufu, demonstrating the skills advocated by Confucius.

HALLS FOR MUSIC, DANCE AND ARCHERY

Just inside the large ancient-style city gate is the vast “Six Skills Square”, surrounded by flowers in full bloom. A large group sculpture is in the centre, depicting Confucius leading his disciples on his travels among the states. Behind is a miniature scene depicting ceremonial etiquette, as displayed by the King of Zhou viewing his army after his ascension to the throne.

Further on are the four white halls representing music, archery, horse-riding and calligraphy, which stand in a symmetrical curve. In the ancient music hall, we sat among 100 other people, watching an interpretation of classical music and dance by the young art troupe based at the Six Skills City. Their performance won warm applause from the audience. This was, I might say, the most interesting place to visit in the Six Skills City.

Then there was the archery hall. Here visitors dressed up in ancient costumes and wore arrow quivers. They rode on horses and had a go at shooting arrows, finding the experience of reliving how the ancient people hunted good fun. Most of them were shooting arrows for the first time. Busy with the bows and arrows, they enjoyed themselves, even though most of their arrows missed the targets.

THE MODERN MATHEMATICS HALL

Outside the archery hall, imitation ancient carriages were waiting to take us to the horse-riding hall. En route, an amaz-

遊人彎弓射箭學古人，

只可惜技不

如人，屢射不中，

洋相百出……

ing three-dimensional screen recreated scenes from the difficult 14-year journey Confucius made as he travelled among the states. As our carriage moved, the scenes changed. The folk customs and landscape from the Spring and Autumn Period appeared one after another, stretching the imagination back in time.

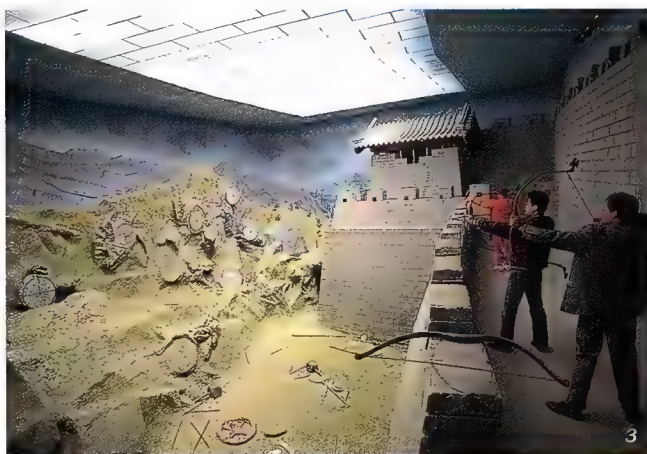
As we entered the calligraphy hall, we were amazed to see hundreds of poems written on scrolls lining the walls. We immediately felt the strong atmosphere of an ancient studio. A scene depicting Confucius preach-

ing to his 72 enthusiastic disciples made us feel a real interest in learning. Some visitors were adept at calligraphy, and they could not miss such a chance to show off. They rolled up their sleeves, composed poems in an instant and wrote with brushes on the paper provided in the hall.

The last hall we entered was the mathematics hall which is a modern, globe-shaped structure built with glass walls. Visitors are tested by being guided through a maze of mathematics. We operated various computer-controlled machines to solve maths puzzles and learned about the history and development of Chinese mathematics. Frankly, I did not know much on the subject of maths before we entered this hall, however, on leaving I felt I had learned more than I had done in school!

A few hours later when we bid farewell to the Six Skills City, we felt we had mastered all the six skills and had become the disciples of Confucius.

Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang
Translated by M.Q.



1. This miniature shows the review of troops when Prince Zhou was enthroned.
2. An ancient music ensemble in costume
3. Shooting an arrow in the archery hall
4. A model of the Zhou-dynasty palaces



祭孔樂舞 Confucian Culture Festival: Honouring the Sage Through Music and Dance



The annual International Confucian Cultural Festival, held on September 28, celebrates the birthday of Confucius. In front of the Dacheng Hall of the Confucius Temple in Qufu, a large music and dance ceremony is held in honour of the great sage.

MUSIC CHOSEN BY THE EMPEROR

The special Confucius ceremony of music and dance started in 478 B.C., when the three residential houses of Confucius in Queli Lane were converted into a temple. The descendants of Confucius and his disciples often performed music and dances

here, primarily to eulogize the good deeds of their ancestor and teacher. Later the emperors of successive dynasties offered sacrifices to Confucius here. Gradually a unique Confucius sacrificial ceremony, including music and dance, was formed. Professional musicians and dancers were employed, and the music tended to change with the tastes of each successive emperor.

Today's Confucius sacrificial music and dance is formatted according to historical material such as the *Confucius Musical Records*. Its music originated from "Zhao" was praised highly by Confucius as "extremely perfect and beautiful"; its dance comes from "Daxia" which is believed to have originated from the Dayu period.

The ceremony begins with the beating of the drum to the left of the Dacheng Gate for 360 beats and then the bell to the right of the gate being struck 180 times. With incense burning, offerings piled high and drums and bells resounding, the master of ceremony shouts: "Welcome in the gods and play the Zhao Music!" As the music starts, dancers holding bird feathers and wind instruments, together with singers in ancient costumes, begin to perform skilfully. The unique ancient atmosphere is heightened by the environment of the Confucius Temple.

"TOURING THE STATES"

After the ceremony, a performance imitating Confucius' tour of the states begins.

Ancient horse carriages parade through Qufu, with bells ringing and whips cracking. Guards of honour in full ancient costume lead the procession, followed by the carriages of Confucius and his disciples. The parade is very grand and extended for miles.

I fixed my eyes on the driver of the carriages; clad in ancient costume, with whips in hand, they conjured up a vivid image of the Lu drivers in the Spring and Autumn Period.

As the parade passed, the scene of Confucius leading his disciples among the states seemed to be recreated before my very own eyes – the journey must have been so difficult and so arduous.



Photos by Shan Xiaogang

Article by Kang Jie

Translated by M.Q.

1. The grand ceremony held in front of Dacheng Hall
2. The performance of "Archery at Juexiangpu"
3. Musicians and dancers performing the sacrificial ceremony
4. The audience are shaded by cypresses watching the Confucius sacrificial ceremony.
5. "Confucius" on a modern car "touring the states"



乘着仿古馬車

在城中轆轤而行，

馬鞭呼呼作響，

鈴鐺之聲

不絕於耳……



孔府宴

Confucius Family Banquet

雖然只有海米配

豆芽作為配料，但因

乾隆皇帝盛讚過，

所以「金鈎掛銀條」

成為孔府宴的

名菜之一



2



3

The Xingtian (Apricot Terrace) Hotel is named after the place where Confucius was said to have lectured to his disciples during his lifetime. I had the good fortune to attend a banquet at the hotel known as the Confucius Family Banquet. It was then that I acquired a deeper understanding of Confucius' saying about cooking: "Food can never be too exquisitely prepared; meat can never be too finely cut."

The hotel's dining hall was classically decorated with red lanterns and painted beams and columns. A large Chinese painting hung on the wall facing the entrance, on either side of which were couplets written in gold characters. Below the painting was a long, narrow table on which were arranged a number of porcelain vases as well as ancient bronze mirrors, carved ornamental objects and large red candles. On the other walls were paintings and calligraphy by well-known artists.

The banquet was served by waitresses dressed in Qing-dynasty costume and comprised of several dozen courses. There were four dishes, each of cold, hot, dried and fresh food, meat, vegetarian and seafood dishes, as well as four main dishes, eight seasonal dishes and four kinds of wheat food. Their richness dazzled my eyes – I hardly knew where to begin!

Each of the dishes were not only delicious and nutritious, but were also given fancy names, such as "The Eight Immortals Pestering an Arhat" and "A Pair of Phoenix Sharing a Nest". One of the two most famous dishes was called "Silver Filaments on Golden Hooks". Prepared with dried shrimps and bean sprouts, the most ordinary of ingredients, it became famous because it was highly praised by Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty. Its crispiness and taste have made it a regular course at every banquet. The other famous dish was called "Ginkgo of Poetry and Etiquette", named after the Hall of Poetry and Etiquette at Confucius' residence and the ginkgo tree planted in front of it during the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

The most spectacular dish was "Mandarin Fish Over a Fire". It was a soup served in a metal pot with a fire burning underneath. The fish is tender and savoury and the soup delicious.

BANQUETS OF DIFFERENT GRADES

A Confucius Family Banquet is distinguished by the consummate skill exercised in its preparation. This is shown first of all in the selection of ingredients. All the ingredients, whether they are rare delicacies, seafood or wild vegetables, must be perfect in colour and shape, and most of all, fresh. The chef's skill in preparing them comes next. The attention to detail during the selection of ingredients and the skill in cooking them make the dishes taste unique.

Confucius Mansion was home to the direct descendants of Confucius for hundreds of years. Since Confucius was



honoured throughout the feudal dynasties in China's history, his direct descendant's social position was continually promoted until it reached the rank of Duke. Every promotion of rank resulted in a higher level of banquet preparation, ever more elaborate. As a result, the family banquets became a special cooking style that embraced all that was the best in the different schools of cooking.

There are many grades of a Confucius Family Banquet. A banquet of the highest grade was used to entertain the emperor or an imperial envoy. Known as the Combined Manchu and Han Banquet, it was a banquet of 196 courses, all of them famous dishes and delicacies. The second highest grade of banquet was called "Banquet of Shark's Fin and Four Main Courses" or "Sea Cucumber and Three Main Courses", which was served on the occasion of a birthday, festival, wedding or funeral. Believe it or not, the banquet I enjoyed was actually the simplest of the many grades of Confucius Family Banquet.

Photos by Shan Xiaogang • Article by Kang Jie
Translated by Tang Bowen

Confucius Family Banquet Presented by Xingtian Guest House

Name of Banquet	Price (RMB¥)
Standard Confucius Family Banquet	500
Confucius Family Wedding Banquet	800
Confucius Family Birthday Banquet	1,000



1. Confucius Mansion Liquor
2. "Peony with a Golden Ring" dish
3. "Ginkgo of Poetry and Etiquette"
4. The dining hall is elaborately decorated.
5. "Mandarin Fish Over a Fire"
6. A major dish symbolizing good fortune
7. "Fried Whole Scorpions"



6

7

旅遊



A Tourist Guide to Qufu

There are two ways to get to Confucius' hometown of Qufu from Beijing and Shanghai: one is by land, the other by air. One can take the Beijing-Shandong express train and alight at Yanzhou, then take a mini-bus to Qufu which is 15 kilometres away, approximately a 20-minute drive. If arriving by air, one can fly to Jinan or Jining. The distance from Jinan Airport to the city is 160 kilometres, a three-hour drive; or 80 kilometres from Jining Airport, a 90-minute drive.

Pedal rickshaws and imitation ancient carriages are available in town for getting around. Fares are strictly controlled by the local authorities, and generally the charge is only two or three yuan per person to go to any of the scenic spots. The itinerary can be arranged as follows: Confucius Temple, Confucius Mansion, Confucius Forest, Prince Zhou Temple, Yan Hui Temple, Huaxia Cultural City, Stele Garden at Gupan Pond and Liuyi (Six Skills) City. If you make the best use of your time, you can get around all these scenic spots within one day, but for a more leisurely visit, two days are needed.

Located 500 metres northeast of the city, Prince Zhou Temple is a shrine to Ji Dan, son of Emperor Wenwang, a noted statesman ancient China. With three courtyards and occupying an area of five hectares, the magnificent temple is surrounded by ancient trees.

Yan Hui Temple is a shrine dedicated to Yan Hui, a brilliant disciple of Confucius. It is only a block away from the Confucius Mansion. Main structures include the Music Pavilion, Fusheng Hall, Prince Qiguo Hall and the hall commemorating Yan Hui's mother.

Gupan Pond is located at the city's southeastern corner. An islet in the centre is linked to the north bank by a stone bridge. Confucius frequently went there with his disciples during his leisure time.

The Stele (vertical stone slab) Garden of The Analects of Confucius is a man-made site with a rockery, ponds, pavilions, towers and walkways scattered throughout. Calligraphy and engravings are the main items to appreciate in the garden. The Huaxia Cultural City is the site where the customs and culture of the State

of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) are mainly performed. The Confucius' Six Skills City is a cultural centre which presents the skills advocated by Confucius. Historical information, interactive exhibitions and entertainment are merged into an organic whole. After visiting the three sites of the Confucius Temple, Mansion and Forest, one gains a profound understanding of Confucius' ideology and theories.

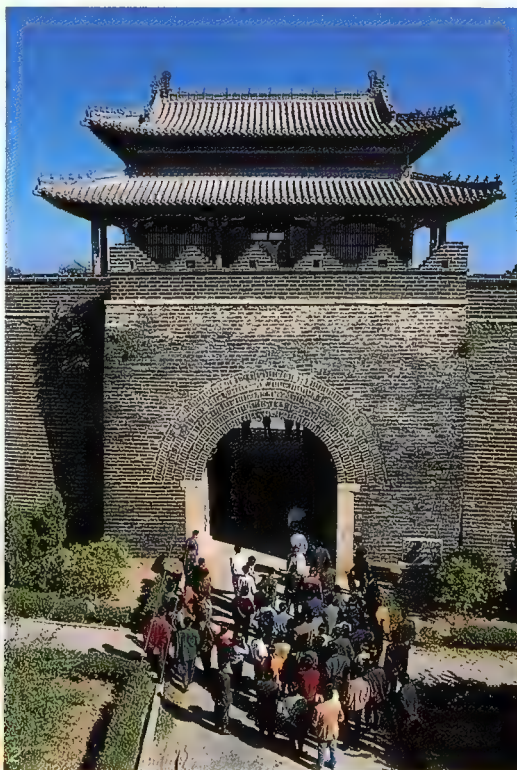
In Qufu's suburbs there are other scenic spots such as Nishan Hill, Shao Hao Mausoleum, Mount Shimen, Yan Hui Forest, a giant stone slab named Wanrenchou (Ten Thousand People's Worry) and a group of tombs at Jiulong (Nine Dragons) Cliff. As these are further out, one should allow a whole day to visit these sites.

Nishan Hill, the birthplace of Confucius, lies 25 kilometres southeast of Qufu. Scenic spots include the Nishan Confucius Temple and Confucius' Cave.

Shao Hao Mausoleum houses the tomb of Shao Hao, one of the five legendary kings in prehistoric times. Located in Jiuxian Village four kilometres east of Qufu, the eight-hectare stone mausoleum is in the shape of a square sarcophagus, surrounded by old trees.

Mount Shimen (Stone Gate), located 25 kilometres northeast of the city, earns its name from the two hills standing directly opposite to each other like a stone gate. During his 14-year tour, Confucius once lodged here. The famous Tang-dynasty poets Li Bai (701-762) and Du Fu (712-770) also stayed at this place to compose poetry. Kong Shangren, a descendant

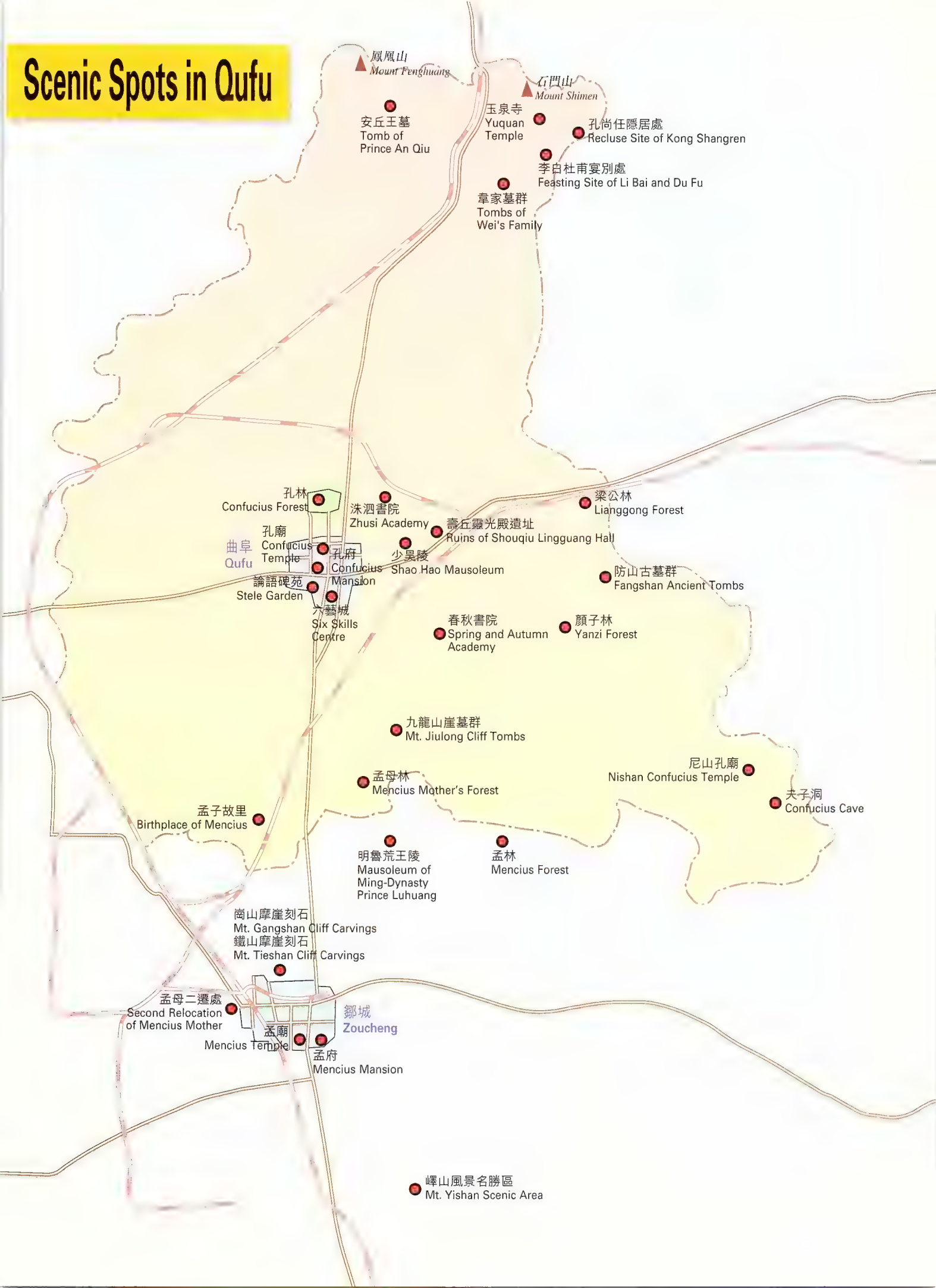
of Confucius and an early Qing-dynasty writer, once lived as a recluse at Yuquan (Jade Spring) Temple in this mountain. It is the most picturesque spot in Qufu.



1. Mausoleum of Shao Hao, the first of the five legendary emperors in prehistoric times, located four kilometres east of Qufu
2. The Yangsheng Gate Tower — the main entrance to Confucius Temple as well as the south gate of Qufu City
3. The site where "Mencius' mother breaks threads from her loom"



Scenic Spots in Qufu



鳳凰山
Mount Fenghuang

石門山
Mount Shimen

安丘王墓
Tomb of Prince An Qiu

玉泉寺
Yuquan Temple

孔尚任隱居處
Recluse Site of Kong Shangren

李白杜甫宴別處
Feasting Site of Li Bai and Du Fu

韋家墓群
Tombs of Wei's Family

孔林
Confucius Forest

洙泗書院
Zhushi Academy

壽丘靈光殿遺址
Ruins of Shouqiu Lingguang Hall

梁公林
Lianggong Forest

曲阜
Qufu

孔廟
Confucius Temple

孔府
Confucius Mansion

少昊陵
Shao Hao Mausoleum

論語碑苑
Stele Garden

六藝城
Six Skills Centre

春秋書院
Spring and Autumn Academy

顏子林
Yanzi Forest

防山古墓群
Fangshan Ancient Tombs

九龍山崖墓群
Mt. Jiulong Cliff Tombs

孟母林
Mencius Mother's Forest

尼山孔廟
Nishan Confucius Temple

孟子故里
Birthplace of Mencius

夫子洞
Confucius Cave

明魯荒王陵
Mausoleum of Ming-Dynasty Prince Luhuang

孟林
Mencius Forest

崗山摩崖刻石
Mt. Gangshan Cliff Carvings

鐵山摩崖刻石
Mt. Tieshan Cliff Carvings

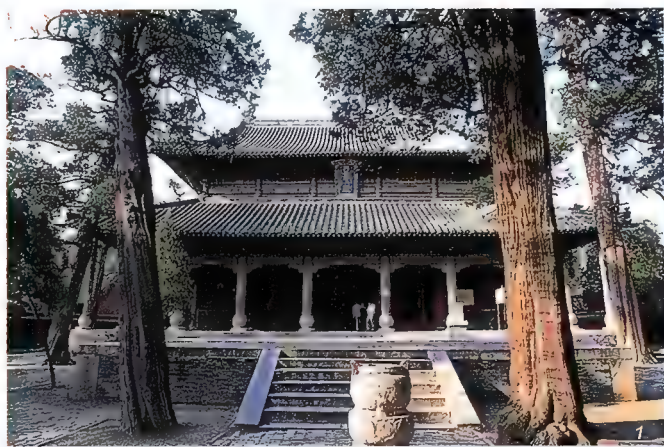
孟母二遷處
Second Relocation of Mencius Mother

孟廟
Mencius Temple

鄒城
Zoucheng

孟府
Mencius Mansion

嶧山風景名勝區
Mt. Yishan Scenic Area



One kilometre northeast of the Confucius Forest is Zhushi, the first of the four ancient academies. It is said that on his return trip from the State of Lu, Confucius stayed here to collate his poems and prose, and finalize his works on etiquette and musical compositions. The Forest of Lord Liang is the graveyard of Confucius' father Shuliang He, his mother Yan Zhengzhai and brother Meng Pi. Situated on the northern slope of Mount Fangshan, the graveyard is 13 kilometres east of the city. In the same direction but two kilometres nearer, one finds Yanzi Forest, the tomb of Yan Hui; and four kilometres east of the city, in Jiuxian Village, the county seat of Song-dynasty's Xianyuan lies the giant stele of Wanrenchou (Ten Thousand People's Worry). This stele was ordered here for the expansion of the Jingling Palace by Emperor Huizong of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), but



before it could be engraved and erected, the attacking army of the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) had reached the city gates. It eventually took 15 years to convey the stele to this place, hence its name.

Into a sheer cliff facing the sun a group of tombs have been dug into Jiulong Cliff in the city's suburbs. The five tombs, dug side by side, belong to several generations of King Lu from the Western Han Dynasty (204 B.C.-A.D. 24). They took 1,900 years to complete.

FOOD

One can taste dishes from the famous Confucius Family Banquet in any big hotel or restaurant in the city, but seats have to be reserved beforehand. Whole banquets are served in high grade hotels such as Queli and Xingtian.

ACCOMMODATION

With a great number of well-appointed hotels and guest-houses, accommodation in the city is convenient. Those who enjoy the bustling city life can check in at Queli, Jinfu, Jiulong, Yingshi, Shenxianju or Dongfang hotels. For those who prefer something quieter, Xingtian, Qufu, Lüyou, Lucheng, Sankong or Kongfu hotels situated in the suburbs are recommended.

Queli Hotel with elegant interior decoration and excellent facilities is located next door to Confucius Mansion and Confucius Temple at downtown. In peak tourist seasons, a special performance of Queli Ancient Music and Dance is arranged at night in the hotel. However, it is usually fully booked, especially in the peak tourist seasons, when tourist groups swarm into it, so for individual travellers it is difficult to book a room.

Xingtian Guest House is located in a serene, comfortable area about a 10-minute walk from the city centre.

SHOPPING

The shops in Zhonglou Street opposite the Queli Hotel are convenient for shopping. The quality of the products are guaranteed and the prices are usually lower than those in the hotels. Wood carvings, rubbings from stone inscriptions and Nishan inkstones – the three treasures of Qufu – are ideal souvenirs, and copper statues of Confucius are also a popular item.

MENCIUS' HOMETOWN

You can also visit Mencius' hometown of Zouxian (now called Zoucheng), 20 kilometres outside Qufu. Like Confucius, Mencius also has a temple, mansion and forest established in his memory. Zouxian is worth a visit, as it also contains other interesting historical sites. If stopping over in Zouxian, Zelin Villa is a pleasant place to stay, set in tranquil surroundings. It takes its name from the story of Mencius' mother, who moved home three times in order to find the right place in which to bring up her son.

Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang
Translated by K.V. Ku

1. Prince Zhou's Temple built on a hill northeast of Qufu
2. Mencius Temple is smaller than the Dacheng Hall at Confucius Temple
3. The newly established stele garden with an agglomeration of works by contemporary calligraphers and poets
4. A small Daimiao Temple on Mount Yishan
5. This stele with its platform stands two-men high
6. The statue of Mencius is less adorned than that of Confucius.
7. The lobby of Zelin Villa in Zoucheng City
8. The former site of Yan Hui Temple at Louxiangjing



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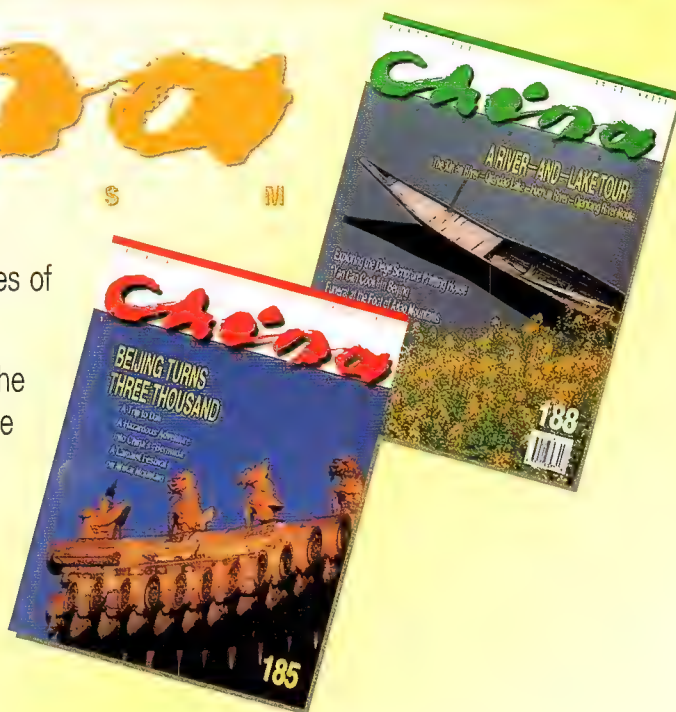
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Desert Scenery

It is generally believed that the desert is a boundless stretch of sand, evocative of solitude, the sparsely populated desert is a place which makes one shrink back at the sight of it.

The huge deserts in northwestern China attract many travellers with their vastness.

and the peculiar topography often compel admiration.

Around these deserts live a dozen or so hospitable ethnic groups. Apart from their colourful folk customs,

Text by Shu Yuancheng



REEDS IN LATE AUTUMN

The reeds swaying in the late autumn breeze are tinged with gold by the setting sun. Mountains form the backdrop, creating a picture rich in rhythm and depth.

Photo by Li Baijun

in Xinjiang

danger and death. Without food or water, tormented by sandstorms all year round,

However, this 'other worldliness' has its own charm.

The bright sun, the magical sunsets, the mysterious historical ruins and cultural relics,

Oases appear suddenly before one's eyes, stunning in their vitality.

their tenacious spirit against the adverse elements gives one much food for thought. 

Translated by K.V. Ku



THE DESERT AT DUSK

The sky is made crimson by the setting sun while a storm stirs up clouds of sand. Backlighting has been used to accentuate the adverse conditions and the resilience of the people living in the desert.

Photo by Yu Deshui



SUNFLOWERS

Each sunflower has formed a lovely pattern with its own bright colour and round seed head. The scale-shaped clouds with distinct gradations highlight their beauty.

Photo by Li Baijun



WEATHERED TREE

This weathered old tree stands in the middle of the picture. Set off by the dark blue sky, the tree's twisted trunk and contours express its moving and tragic history of struggle.

Photo by Zhao Cheng'an



"Yan Can Cook"

in Luoyang and Shaolin Temple

The Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng County, Henan Province has always been famous, but has become even more so since its appearances in many films. A 700-metre-long road leads from the entrance of the Shaolin Scenic Area to Shaolin Temple. As we arrived, youngsters from the many martial arts schools were practising their martial arts on both sides of the road. Most of the martial arts schools claim to be the only true teachers of traditional kungfu, even their names are more or less related to the Shaolin Temple. Originally famous for martial arts and the Chan Sect, Shaolin Temple now has become a bustling scenic spot filled with noise and excitement.

A 1,500-YEAR-OLD TEMPLE

Shaolin Temple was first constructed by Emperor Xiaowen of Northern Wei Dynasty in 495 for Bhadra, an Indian monk who decided to preach in China. In the year 527, another Indian monk Bodhidharma, came to Shaolin Temple to teach many disciples his religion. Thus Shaolin Temple is also known for the origins of the Chan Sect of Chinese Buddhism. The Chan Sect required its disciples to sit straight facing the wall devoting themselves completely to study; so Bodhidharma and his disciples created "Boxing of the Heart and Mind" to overcome the fatigue of facing the wall. Various forms of this boxing later merged into the Shaolin martial arts and became famous from the beginning of the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Most parts of the existing Shaolin Temple were reconstructed during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. Above the temple's main gate is a horizontal board inscribed "Shao Lin Si" by Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty. Dozens of stone steles line the paved path, inscribed or carved by calligraphers of the past thousand years. Inside the Vairocana Hall, where Vairocana Buddha is worshipped, is a large colour mural of the Ming Dynasty "Five-Hundred Arhats Worshipping Vairocana" covering the

walls. On the floor, there remain 20-centimetre-deep pits that were formed by monks practising martial arts.

MISUNDERSTANDING

The production team were at the Shaolin Temple to shoot their next episode. Martin Yan stopped in front of the temple and introduced it to the television camera just like a tourist guide. Then the crew and Martin Yan moved into the temple kitchen. Standing before the kitchen range, he started to introduce his programme *Yan Can Cook*.

Daily meals for the Shaolin monks are rather simple: breakfast consists of porridge, steamed bread and a small dish of salted vegetables. Lunch and supper are usually a bowl of plain noodles in soup with several pieces of cabbage and some bean curd. They even do not flavour their food with spring onion, chives, mustard or garlic. The art designer, an American considered the vegetables in the kitchen too simple, and so he brought in a basket of eggs and some live fish and placed them on the table. When an elderly monk saw them, he started to talk and

昔日以武術和禪宗著稱的

少林寺，如今遊人熙來攘往，

已經成為熱門的旅遊勝地



1. Martin Yan presents his programme Shaolin-style
2. Inside the Shaolin Temple kitchen
3. Posing as a monk in front of Shaolin Temple's main entrance

少林寺





電視攝製組的美籍美術設計

見少林寺的廚房都是

素菜，便搞來雞蛋與活魚，

引起他與寺內老和尚

「雞同鴨講」的誤會

wave his hands excitedly. Knowing no Chinese, the American did not understand what the elderly monk was trying to say. But when he saw the elderly monk about to take the eggs and fish away, he became worried. The American did not know that the temple was a Buddhist establishment and that monks do not eat meat, let alone kill live creatures. The monk wanted them removed but the designer tried repeatedly to say that they were only to be used for the television programme. The two of them argued for sometime until Martin Yan came over to explain to the American the meaning of Buddhist abstinence. So the misunderstanding was clarified.

YAN-STYLE TONGZIGONG

Leaving by the main entrance of the Shaolin Temple, walking westward for approximately 300 metres, we came to a place where the remains of senior monks of Shaolin Temple were buried inside stupas. There are as many as 220 brick and stone stupas. Many movies about the Shaolin Temple have been shot here. The production team asked some of the Shaolin monks to demonstrate their kungfu. Everyone of them was highly accomplished in their display of sword, spear, stick and cudgel and barehand routines. Then they showed us the feat called *daozaibei* or *tongzigong* — standing on the head practised by the young boy monks when they start to learn the Shaolin-style kungfu. Martin Yan decided he would present the programme standing on his head! This new approach set the production team busy. Two young men each holding one leg, slowly stood Martin Yan on his head. The television camera showed only Yan's head and chest, so that he appeared to be balancing on his head but actually his weight was supported by



the two young men. Not used to talking upside down, Martin Yan could not pronounce his words correctly several times, so in the end the production team decided to add the commentary back at the recording studio.

“WATER BANQUET”

We left the Shaolin Temple to visit the Longmen Grottoes where we treated ourselves to the famous local cuisine called “Water Banquet” in Luoyang Hotel consisting of 24 courses. Apart from eight cold dishes, the remaining 16 dishes are all watery. The dishes are served and cleared away promptly, just like the flowing of



1. Monks from South Korea in front of the Buddha in Longmen Grottoes.
2. Yan bought a big wok to use in his programme.
3. Yan poses among Shaolin kungfu trainees.
4. Tasting the "Water banquet"

them with a specially-made rice powder to be later steamed and air-dried several times. Finally, it was cooked in fresh chicken soup with various other ingredients. When ready, the dish was glistening white and looked like a swallow's nest. The dish was a success and Wu Zetian liked it so much that she named the dish "yancai".

Martin Yan was unexpectedly surprised by the "Water Banquet" and immediately produced a programme about it. So a Tang Dynasty banquet was added to the series of *Yan Can Cook*. 

Translated by Yingwen
Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

Vegetarian Diet of Shaolin Temple and Luoyang Water Banquet

The vegetarian diet served in the Shaolin Temple is mostly for the pilgrims and lay Buddhists, but tourists can also sample it. Staple foods include rice, noodles and steamed bun. Dishes served are cabbage, carrots, pickles and bean curd. The taste is light, fragrant and fresh, plus the price is reasonable.

This water banquet can either be simple or complicated, cheap or expensive. There are many restaurants offering the cuisine, the most outstanding of which is called Zhenbutong Restaurant. Established during the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) it has been renovated many times. The combination of ancient style architecture and interior decoration along with the water banquet is truly a delight.

water, hence its name. It is said that the "Water Banquet" was a popular court banquet during the Tang Dynasty. Later it was introduced outside the court and became popular with the common people.

Special attention is paid to the preparation of the soup or gravies of the "Water Banquet". The soup is either clear so that you can see the bottom of the bowl or milky white. The bowls in which the 16 hot dishes are served are special. Made of fine-porcelain they have a small white bottom, high waist and big mouth rustically painted with blue flowers. Except for the final four courses, the other 12 courses are arranged into four

groups according to their content. Three dishes are served each time, with one dish served in a bigger bowl and the two other dishes served in smaller bowls and this is called "taking your sons to court".

LUOYANG YANCAI

The most famous dish of the "Water Banquet" is "yancai". It is said that when Empress Wu Zetian was in Luoyang, she received an auspicious gift of a huge turnip from the farmers who grew it. Wu Zetian ordered the court cooks to make a dish with the "king of turnips". The cooks racked their brains, first cutting the turnip into fine shreds and then mixing



The Sanyuesan Festival of the Bouyei

The Sanyuesan Festival of the Bouyei ethnic group in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is similar to that of the Dai's Water-Splashing Festival in Yunnan Province. As soon as we entered Sanjiangkou (Three-River Mouth) we were splashed with water by the Bouyei villagers. We turned and fled but eventually were soaked from top to toe with "auspicious water"!

GROUND FEAST

Sanjiangkou is located at the juncture of Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi, as well as on the confluence of the Nanpan, Huangni and Duoyi rivers. On the west bank of Sanjiangkou, the Duoyi River forms a seven-fold waterfall with a drop

of 15 metres and the Huangni (Yellow Mud) pours rapidly from the entrance of a gorge. Interestingly, at the confluence of the three rivers the water is clear on one side and muddy on the other. The banks of the rivers are overgrown with

在「三月三」闖入

三江口，迎面便見到布依族男女

手持水具潑水而來……



old banyan and tall kapok trees. It is in such a serene environment that the Bouyei people have inherited the tradition of gathering at this juncture of the rivers on the third day of the third lunar month to worship the God of the Mountain. They ask him to bless and protect their thriving cattle and pray for bumper harvests; then they worship the River God by gathering at the mouth of the three rivers where each household has a feast. Herein lies the connotation of this ancient ethnic group who honour the snake

as their totem and water as an object of worship.

The Bouyei village itself is made up of wattle-walled stilt houses with tiled-roofs and with the ground floor used as a cattle pen.

The Bouyei are people of sincere hospitality. Stepping into a villager's house we were immediately treated with "coloured rice" — the festive best prepared with glutinous rice dyed with plant colours, a unique colourful expression of their peaceful life.



COLOURED EGGS AND ANCIENT WATERWHEELS

Along the 58-metre-long Duoyi River we came across Bouyei girls carrying coloured eggs decorated with crochet, dressed in new pale blue clothes and white towel turbans. Coloured eggs are an auspicious object of the festival, apparently given as tokens of love between young men and women.

At one end of the bridge near the village the creaking sound of ancient waterwheels attracted our attention. Revolving slowly the waterwheels presented a striking contrast with the modern large-scale Lubuge Power Station merely 10 kilometres away.

We were deeply impressed by the tranquil mountains, gentle rivers and the simple, honest Bouyei people and their Sanyuesan Festival.

Translated by K.V. Ku
Photos by Ou Yansheng
Text by Kang Jie



1. This mini replica is inspired by the ancient waterwheels.
2. Ancient waterwheels still turn along the Duoyi River.
3. The Bouyei people worship the River God by feasting at the mouth of the three rivers.
4. Sanjiangkou located at the juncture of Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi.
5. Coloured rice is the best dish of the festival.



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A Solo Motorcycle Trip to Huangcheng Grassland

Early one morning last August, I set out alone on my motorcycle from Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, and headed north for Huangcheng, a district known for its beautiful natural scenery in the Qilian Mountains. Administratively, Huangcheng belongs to the South Gansu Yugur Autonomous County.

A JOYOUS EXPERIENCE

My first stop along the way was Wushao Ridge, the eastern entrance to the Gansu Corridor. There was a shower in the afternoon, and when I reached the ridge at dusk I found it enshrouded with clouds dyed crimson by the setting sun.

The mountain slopes were carpeted by golden rapeseed flowers, August being their flowering season.

The following morning I consulted the map I carried and picked a route running along the foot of the Qilian Mountains leading to Wuwei. Along the way, the scenery, picturesque villages and friendly inhabitants of the mountains often made me stop to take photographs. There were many narrow mountain paths to negotiate but riding a motorcycle along this route was a joyous experience. As the motorcycle roared its way up a slope, I had to hold on tight to the handlebars. As I splashed across a knee-deep stream, I had to lift my feet to

prevent my trousers and shoes from getting wet. As I wove my way across one mountain, or stream, after another, I felt very proud of myself. Passing the towns of Haxi and Huangyang, I returned to State Highway 312 and reached the famous city of Wuwei.

THE YUGUR PEOPLE ON THE GRASSLAND

Leaving Wuwei behind me early the following morning, I began to head for the grassland of Huangcheng, a distance of 92 kilometres. The highway followed a river valley and passed by the Jiutiaoling Coal Mine. The first 60 kilometres from Wuwei to Jiutiaoling were asphalted,



駕摩托車行駛在

草灘上的小路，柔軟而

起伏的路面，讓人有

騰雲駕霧的感覺



the rest gravelled. The crops on the flat farmland on both sides of the valley were ripe for harvest. After Jiutiaoling, I began to follow the gravel road and climb a slope. Once I reached the top of the mountain I looked back to find the road I had just travelled was like a ribbon winding its way through the mountains.

Climbing down the other side of the mountain, I was soon on the grassland of Huangcheng, a large expanse of grassy marshland surrounded by mountains and dotted here and there with sandy patches. The ride across the grassland was rather bumpy. I picked my way forward along

an undulating path. The surface was so soft I felt like I was riding on a cloud! I soon reached a small town, the seat of Huangcheng district and decided to skirt round it following a road which led to the pasture. As I sped forward, the sky suddenly turned cloudy and before I knew it, dark clouds had gathered overhead. Weather in the mountains is particularly unpredictable at this time of year. Before long, however, the sun re-emerged from behind the clouds and I enjoyed the spectacular sight of the sun shining through dark clouds. Suddenly, raindrops began to spatter down. I had not brought any rain gear with me as I knew any rain would not last long, and so I continued to plod along carefully. Indeed, the rain soon stopped. My clothes soon became dry as the sun began to



1. From the top of the Jiutiao Ridge, the mountain highway looks like a ribbon.

2. A train zigzags its way up Wushao Ridge in the setting sun.

3. On Wushao Ridge, August is the flowering season of rapeseed.





由於得意忘形，

忽略了雨後路滑的危險，

摩托車失控，我連人帶車

重重摔進泥淖中



bouring yurt. He was obviously interested in my motorcycle and asked a great many questions about it. All these Yugur people speak fluent Han dialogue. Many of the better-off young herders on the grassland have their own motorbikes, as the "iron horses" are more convenient and faster than horses.

AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY

After a short rest, I said goodbye to the friendly Yugurs and continued ahead to the Qilian Mountains. As I approached the foot of the mountains the number of yurts, cattle and sheep increased.

Near the foot of a mountain was a stone bridge, which the local people called the Double Stone Bridge. Although the bridge was not large, it spanned a stream more than 10 metres below. Around and below the bridge were boulders of all shapes covered with wild flowers and moss. One was as large as a house. The sound of the stream cascading down the mountain and over the boulders produced a roaring sound which could be heard from a long distance away. I stood on a huge rock on the bank of the stream and looked down. It was like staring into an abyss. Clouds started to form again so I hurriedly took

shine again, and I drove on. At the sight of a herder's yurt not far ahead, I wrenched the accelerator and headed straight towards it.

The yurt out to be the home of a family, and the grassland around was their summer pasture. An elderly man, his wife and their unmarried pretty daughter lived there. When I told them of my destination, they invited me in to rest for a while and offered me a cup of milk tea. The Yugur people now live a relatively settled life. In winter, they return to their village near Huangcheng, and only live in yurts when they herd their animals in summer. A young man, hearing my arrival, came over from a neigh-



a photograph and followed another path back to the road. The wind soon began to rise, and as I sped along a road between two wire fences enclosing the pasture, rain began to pour down behind me. Luckily, there was a sheep shed by the roadside. I hastily parked inside, but my clothes were already drenched. At this moment, the sheep herders also came in to take shelter from the rain. I chatted with them as I dried my clothes over a fire they had built.

As soon as the rain had stopped, I bade them farewell, mounted my bike and dashed down a grassy slope, whistling lightheartedly. Suddenly I saw a pool of water ahead. I knew if I applied the brake too suddenly, the motorbike would certainly overturn so I braked gently and allowed momentum to take me down the decline. The motorcycle, however, slipped sideways and I lost control, throwing me heavily into the muddy water!

The road ahead was even worse. It took me almost two hours to proceed one

kilometre. Although I drove as cautiously as if I were on thin ice, I was thrown several times because there were too many unexpected obstacles. I reached the town of Huangcheng at seven in the evening. After filling up the tank at a gas station and getting the clutch lever straightened, I embarked on another adventure – I decided to try to cover the mountain road to Yongchang in the same night.

An hour after leaving Huangcheng, as I climbed to the top of a mountain, the dark clouds that seemed to be chasing me the whole afternoon caught up with me again. This time there was no shelter to be found so I was drenched again by a sudden shower.

The rain finally stopped at sunset. I propped up the bike and changed into some dry clothes before proceeding further.



I switched on the head-lights, as it was getting dark. Speeding along, I saw shadowy figures ahead, signalling me to stop. As I got closer, I saw two young men with two motorcycles, one bike parked

“當我駛到一座山頂

時，那片追了我一下午

的烏雲，竟趁機狠狠地把雨

水澆在我身上！”



ROUTE OF THE MOTORCYCLIST



at the roadside, the other lying in a ditch along the road. The men were totally drenched and were shivering from the cold. In broken Han dialogue, they told me that one of the motorcycles had broken down and asked me if I had a spare bolt.... Unfortunately I did not have that particular bolt but told them I could deliver a message for them ahead. I gave them some of the biscuits I carried, in the hope that some food would help to keep them warm. After saying goodbye to the only people I had met on the mountain road, I continued my way forward. Along the way, I sang all the songs I could remember at the top of my voice until I reached the State Highway.

The actual distance from Huangcheng to Yongchang was 90 kilometres. The first 50 kilometres or so were gravel-surfaced and the other 40 kilometres were asphalted.

Not having checked the distance on the map, I had thought the distance was only about 60 kilometres and that I could reach Yongchang in three hours at the most. As it happened, I did not reach Yongchang until almost midnight!

Photos & Article by Chen Zhun
 Translated by Tang Bowen

1. Harvesting the autumn crop
2. At the foot of the Qilian Mountains
3. The mountain people I met were hospitable and friendly.
4. The Double Stone Bridge



民間的手工藝品，

因具悠久的歷史而擁有

懽人的藝術魅力，

令農家院滿室生輝

Brightly-Coloured and Strangely-Shaped Fengxiang Folk Art

Visitors to Xi'an are often attracted by its strangely-shaped and brightly-coloured clay sculptures, for these handicraft articles are seldom seen elsewhere.

Vividly designed and gaudy in colour, these handicrafts are originally from Fengxiang, a place with an auspicious name originating from the famous Chinese saying, "the dragon and phoenix create happiness when together." Located 150 kilometres west of Xi'an, the ancestors of Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China, were raised here. During the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), Fengxiang, then called Yong, was the capital of the State of Qin.

Obviously a place with such a long history is bound to have a rich culture. At the folk art exhibition hall in Donghu Park outside in Fengxiang there are over 1,000 exquisite handicraft items, including, clay tigers, clay oxen, embroidered pillowcases, paper-cuts for window decoration, embroidered shoe insoles, colourful classical opera masks and block-printed New Year pictures. Visitors are dazzled even before they finish walking around the display.

Photos by Yang Limin

Article by Xiu Shi

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

▼ CLOTH MONKEYS

In the past, Fengxiang farmers never spent a penny in the city toy shops, because their women folk were well able to sew various toys for their children, made from tailors' leftover cuttings. Look at the cloth monkey here. It is purely a boy in disguise!



◀ COLOURFUL MASKS

Most Fengxiang farmers are great fans of ancient dramas. Upon learning of a performance, they would never hesitate in going to see it despite the long distances and the need to walk there and back in one night. After enjoying the performance, they might buy masks made by the folk artists modelled on the opera characters they have just seen, to take them home to hang on their walls so that they can enjoy the drama everyday.

▼ EMBROIDERED SHOE INSOLES

According to one Fengxiang custom, young women must embroider insoles for their husbands during their first year of marriage. Stitch by stitch, the brides weave their feelings into the embroidery, creating a beautiful work of art.



► PLATES WITH ORCHID AND FISH DESIGNS

When collectors seek out folk art at the homes of farmers in Fengxiang, they are often drawn to the crude china bowls and plates on the dining table. Although roughly drawn in monochrome, the designs are appealingly simple – an artistic concept sought after by modern painters.

▼ CLAY TOYS

Among the handicrafts from Fengxiang the colourful clay sculptures are the most attractive. Folk artists gather glutinous clay from between the layers of yellow earth, grind it into powder, mix it together with paper pulp and then stir and pound it into a clay dough. The clay is used to make various semi-finished products, which are then placed in the shade to dry. When dry, a white base-colour is applied, then an outline is drawn in black ink and the gaudy colours of red, green and yellow are then added.





Natural Scenery in Sichuan Heavenly Pits *and* Earthly Crevice

In Fengjie County, Sichuan Province the small town of Xinglong is surrounded by dense forests, clear waters, beautiful mountains and natural landscape. The most extraordinary feature is the largest "heavenly pit" and the longest, deepest "earthly crevice" in the world.

Called the "heavenly pit", by the local people, in geography it is known as a funnel and is generally formed by a collapsed karst cave or through the erosion of water. In the low-lying lands and hills around Xinglong Town there are no streams or ditches as so many pits have been formed by the erosion of rain water that the water is quickly guided away. Although only a few feet wide, some are so deep that their depths are unknown. Among the hundreds of "heavenly pits" around Xinglong Town, many are over 100 metres in diameter, the largest of which is Xiaozhai Heavenly Pit located in Xiaozhai Village in Jingzhu Township. The pit's mouth is 622 metres wide, narrowing at its bottom to 522 metres, is 666.2 metres deep and its volume totals 119.348 million cubic metres. The pit ranks first in the world among similar types of funnels both for its depth and volume. At its bottom, an underground river surges out of a dark cave only a few dozen metres high, crashing among rocks for 100 metres to enter another bottomless cave.

From where does this underground river originate? According to surveys, Sagu Stream, a few kilometres to the east of Xinglong Town, flows into the ground to form this underground river. The stream has also created a 37-kilometre-long "earthly crevice", another rare land formation. A path zigzags to the bottom



Fengjie Scenic Area



between the precipices in the northeastern part of the pit.

The “earthly crevice” is also known as Heavenly Well Canyon, located approximately four to five kilometres away from the “heavenly pit”. Two solid mountain ridges run side by side forming a canyon between its two ridges.

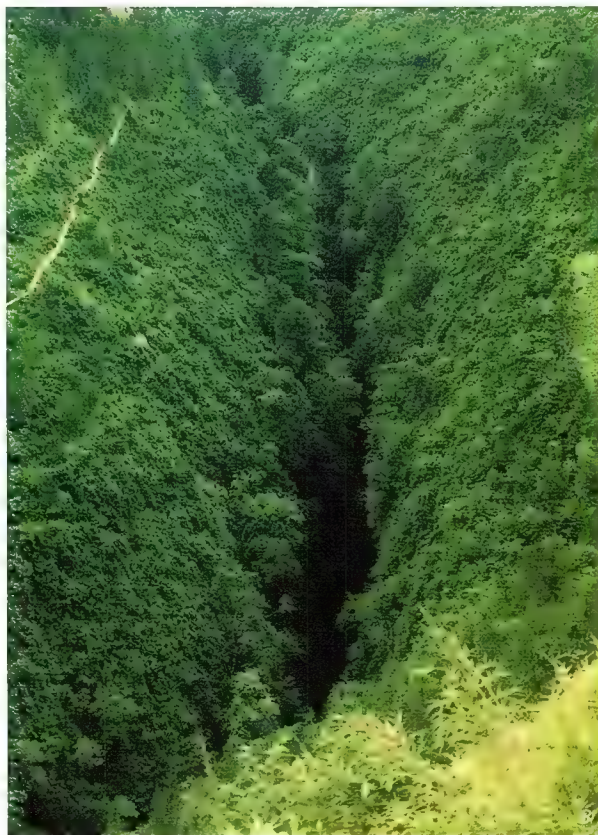
The “earthly crevice” is in fact a peculiar dry canyon or a blind gorge. As the Sagu Stream flows downhill, the water disappears underground through countless “heavenly pits” along the “earthly crevice” and a dry canyon is then formed. In this karst area all the rivers tend to flow underground, sucked away by the funnels and holes, leaving the riverbeds. The only time there is water above ground is during the flood season.

The underground river in the Xiaozhai Heavenly Pit resurfaces at Yizi Village after flowing through a 5,000-metre-long underground cave to become a clear stream called Maze River. There are several breaches at the centre of the mountain perimeter where it is possible to walk to the bottom of the crevice.

High on the steep cliffs there are a series of crevices where it is said that an ancient tribe once lived whose custom it was to place their coffins in high caves. The coffins found have unknown dates. In the surrounding area Palaeontological fossils have also been found in caves: in 1986 fossils of the Wushan Ape — the palaeoanthropological man dating back two million years — were also discovered at a place not far from the Xiaozhai Heavenly Pit.



Translated by M.Q.
Photos & Text by Zhao Guilin



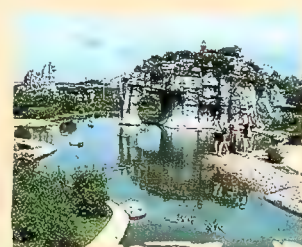
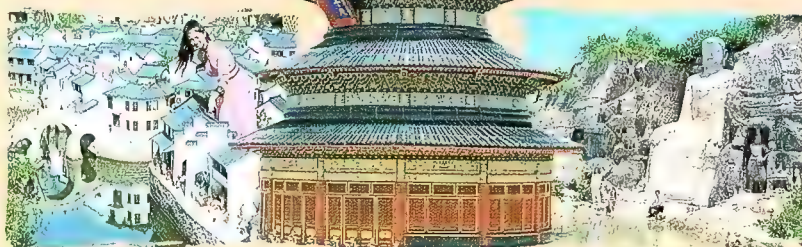
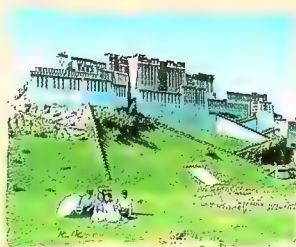
1. A camera crew from CCTV filming at the site of the Earthly Crevice
2. A bird's-eye view of the Xiaozhai Heavenly Pit
3. Earthly Crevice viewed from the air

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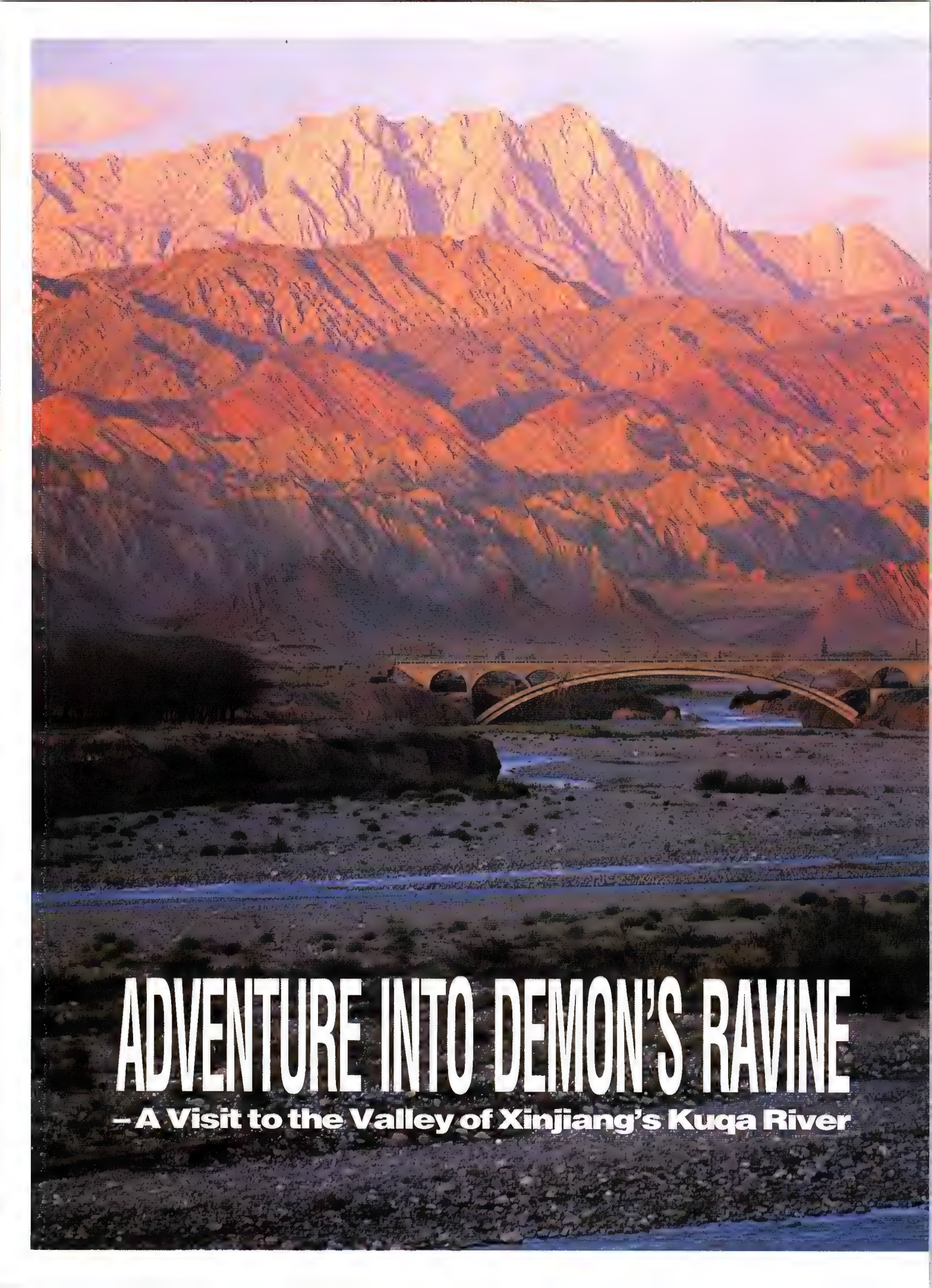
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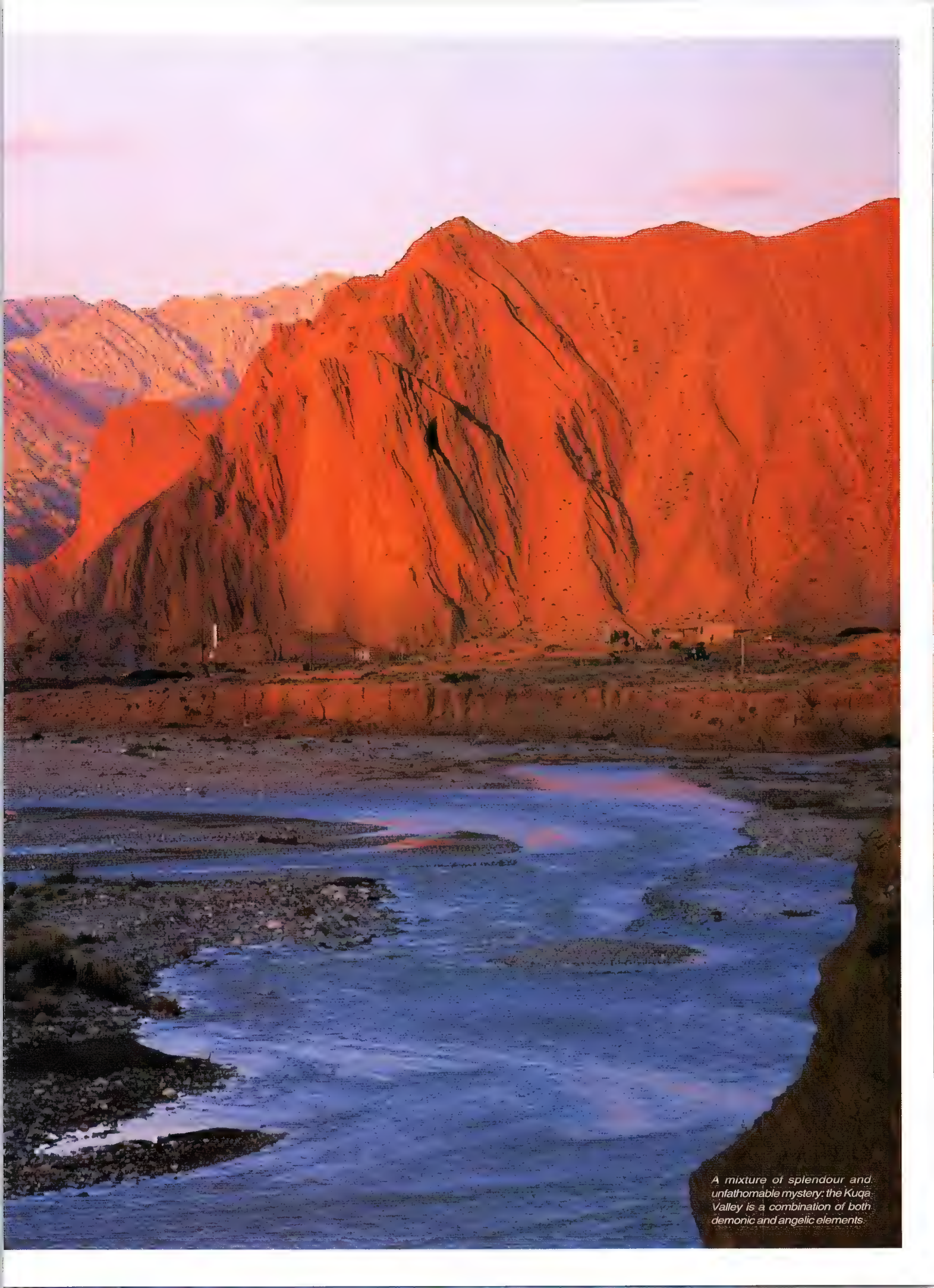
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A scenic landscape photograph of a river valley. In the foreground, a wide, rocky riverbed with a small stream of water flows. A multi-arched stone bridge spans the river in the middle ground. The background is dominated by steep, rugged mountains with a warm, orange-brown hue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

ADVENTURE INTO DEMON'S RAVINE

— A Visit to the Valley of Xinjiang's Kuqa River



A mixture of splendour and unfathomable mystery: the Kuqa Valley is a combination of both demonic and angelic elements.



During a recent visit to Kuqa in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, my local friends took me to all the places of historical interest, ostensibly to show off the town's former glory as the capital of Qiuci, a state in the Western Regions during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220). Having marvelled at all the tourist attractions the town had to offer, I continued my journey northwards, climbing over the Tianshan Mountains to venture into the vast Bayanbulak Grassland.

Nature turned an otherwise humdrum journey into one full of unexpected thrills and wonders. As our jeep sped along the Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway towards Bayanbulak, the 100-kilometre stretch of the Kuqa River valley greeted us with a series of geological surprises. Mountains on either side soared into the sky in forms ranging from the awesome to the grotesque. Hence the valley's nickname, "Demon's Ravine".

NATURE'S BIZARRE WORK: QOLTAG STONE FOREST

A dozen kilometres north of the seat of Kuqa County the road starts to undulate wildly in a terrain known as the Yardang landform. The scene from our window was of a no-man's land full of wind-eroded barren hills. Where the Yardang borders the desolate desert rise the Qoltag Mountains, known for their russet coloured rocks; the local people call them the Red Mountains.

Situated south of the huge Tianshan Range, the Qoltag extends east-west for more than 200 kilometres over the territories of Kuqa, Xinhe, Baicheng and Wensu counties. The mountains are strewn with grottoes and the ruins of ancient cities, dating back to the Han and Tang dynasties. The steep mountainsides are a beehive of spurs and depressions. Long

years of dry, high winds have whipped the russet rocks into juxtaposed, razor-sharp ridges, evocative of folds on the bellows of an accordion.

The moment we entered the "folds" on the mountain's foothills we found ourselves in a world of rocky turmoil, with a hundred and one grotesque forms protruding from the compressed ridges. In some cases clusters of rock cones and columns cover entire mountain slopes. In between these stone forests the rocks look like waves, javelins or halberds in a military formation, or a horde of ferocious-looking demons.

The twisted and oblique patterns on the rock face add to their bizarre look.

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

It did not take us long to climb over the Qoltag Mountains, which are only a dozen kilometres in width. In the basin north of the mountains, we could see a few Bactrian camels leisurely grazing on the sparse vegetation. The Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway cut across the basin, disappearing into the Tianshan Mountains with their hoary peaks piercing the sky.

Suddenly it turned dark, and the snow-covered mountains ahead of us disappeared

from view. What looked like the dark mass of a mountain range came rolling towards us. In the blink of an eye it had blotted out the sky and obscured the earth. The wild grass thrashed about and pebbles swirled in the air, rattling against the windows of our jeep.



1. Ruins of the Shaoguli Monastery, situated where the Kuqa River flows out of the mountains. On his way west to fetch some Buddhist scriptures, the monk Xuan Zhuang had paid homage to this place.

2. Rocks protrude from the foothills in a hundred and one exotic shapes (by Zhao Cheng'an)

3. The variegated rock layers are testimony to nature's magical force (by Wang Miao).

4. One of a kind: folding landmass of the Qoltag Mountains







With full headlights on, our jeep laboriously nosed its way forward against the howling wind. Fortunately the storm was very brief and soon passed us by, leaving us unscathed.

RAINBOW-COLOURED MOUNTAINS

As the jeep ascended the southern slope of the Tianshan Mountains the sky became clear. The topography on both sides of the Kuqa River reflects the exotic forms of the Qoltag, except in striking contrast to the dismal wilderness of the Qoltag, the landscape here is a tapestry of lush green. Plants and heavily-foliaged poplar trees crowd the river valley.

Our guide pointed up and said, "Doesn't it look like the Potala Palace?" I craned my head to have a look. A feeling of dizziness came over me as an overhanging cliff imposed



its grotesque shape upon my eyes. Through the magical work of nature the cliff resembles a multi-storied building, complete with pillars, eaves and so on. But to liken it to the Potala is slightly inaccurate; it looks more like a mystical castle or a demon's den.

At this point the Kuqa River makes an sharp bend.

The landscape suddenly broadens, spreading as far as the eye can see. Beyond, jumbled mountain ranges surge up, extending many miles. The rocks are no longer a monotonous russet; instead, each mountain lends a different tone. The riot

1. The razor-sharp mountain peaks are evocative of a demon's protruding teeth (by Zhao Cheng'an).

2. The Red Mountains, towering over the Kuqa River, are a forest of strangely-shaped rocks.

3. With their lives at stake, mountain goats show a good sense of discipline as they file across a steep cliff.





of colour is by no means the work of vegetation; these are the true colours of the mountains.

It is said that during the Tertiary Period, about 65 million years ago, the area was part of a vast ocean. Through the movement of the earth's crust it was gradually pushed upwards to become huge piles of mudstone, sandstone and conglomerated rock. The complex geological structure is the reason for the variegated colour of these barren mountains.

DALONG LAKE — A MIRROR IMBEDDED IN TALL MOUNTAINS

The road spirals upwards as the mountains become increasingly steep. A milestone indicates that for the last three to four hours we have only covered 80 kilometres. En route we come upon a small town called "East Wind Coal Mine", the centre of a large coalmining area, and the only human habitation on the 100-kilometre-long stretch of the Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway.

Coal layers protrude from cliff faces everywhere, creating the dominantly grey colour in this part of the world. The mining methods employed are primitive at best: a hole is drilled into the cliff wall, the coal then is dug out and heaped on the roadside before being shipped away by truck. The thriving coalmining and transportation business has attracted all sorts of shops and stalls to set up on both sides of the road, adding some life to the otherwise ghostly valley. Having replenished our supplies with some fruit, we lost no time to resume our journey.

As we reached the heart of the southern Tianshan Mountains, the dreary and unfriendly landscape gave way to a lush patchwork of woods and green pasture. At a place 2,300 metres above sea level we came upon the 2.5-kilometre-long Dalong (Big Dragon) Lake. The surrounding mountains are beautifully reflected in the lake. The miraculous transformation from mountain gloom to this sudden moun-

tain glory was one of the most exciting parts of our journey.

The surrounds of Dalong Lake are a combined masterpiece of mountain formation and glacial movements which took millions of years to form. As one theory goes, while the Tianshan Mountains were being shaped during the Cenozoic Era, an army of glaciers extended into an embrace. With their highly erosive force, the glaciers cut the mountains into a V-shaped ravine, whose mouth was subsequently silted up by huge quantities of pebbles. As the climate became warmer and the glaciers disappeared, the resulting molten snow formed this picturesque alpine lake.

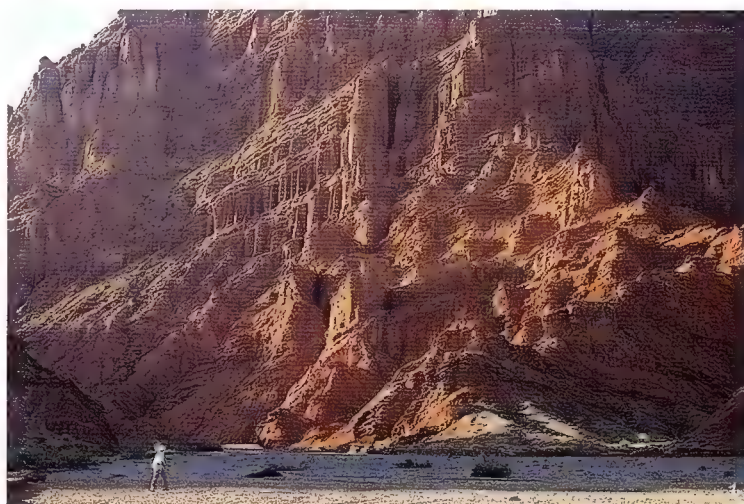
With local Kazak herdsmen we shared barbecued mutton, cakes and fruit by the lake, while imbibing its beauty and that of the surrounding mountains.

Resuming our trip after the picnic we entered Bears' Gully, so named because the area is frequented by bears. But wild bears are a rarity nowadays. The gully has become famous as farmland, with abundant water, pasture and woods.

As we travelled uphill, the mountains grew increasingly steeper, with more and deeper ravines. The road narrowed and seemed to hang precariously to the vertical cliffs. Snowy peaks loomed close until the jeep reached the Maiti Mountain Pass at an altitude of 3,400 metres above sea level. Here the highway threads its way through a two-kilometre-long tunnel. As our jeep plunged into the mouth of the tunnel, we realised we were saying goodbye to Kuqa and the Demon's Ravine.



*Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin
Translated by Ling Yuan*



1. A mountain cliff in the shape of a well-constructed castle
2. Diverse colours and veins in the rocks reveal their different geology.
3. The picturesque Big Dragon Lake: a source of life for local herdsmen, and an enjoyable resting place for tourists





SPECIALITIES OF QUFU

Brush Pens *and the* "Three Treasures"

Fuxinghe Brush Pen Store, owned by the Gong Family in Qufu, Shandong Province, was established in the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1875 - 1908) during the Qing Dynasty. Its founder, Gong Chunli, a native of Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, moved to Shandong in his boyhood where he became an apprentice in a brush pen store. Finishing his apprenticeship, he engaged himself in the same business and finally settled down in Qufu.

His store has enjoyed good business, earning itself a reputation for using quality materials and excellent workmanship.

In ancient times the four great calligraphers – Kong, Wu, Yan and Chen – ordered their writing brushes from the Fuxinghe Store. This was a great compliment, since these famous families were very particular about the quality of their brush pens. Gong Chunli solicited their opinions and those of his friends so as to improve his production techniques. As a result, the store became noted and thereby it has thrived for over a century in Qufu, where sages and scholars have always gathered.

Today, the flourishing family business is being handled by a female member of the Gong family. Gong Guizhi, the fourth generation of the family enterprise, has inherited the responsibility of being the sole brush pen producer in Qufu. The technique of making such pens is complicated, requiring more than 80 processes. Their ancestors' decreed that the special techniques must be held secret, and cannot be revealed to non-family members. Fuxinghe store is only a household industry, yet there are enough willing family members to ensure it retains the traditional techniques of brush-pen making.



In Miss Gong's house, I saw three generations of the family gathered together, each busy with their own work: combing hair, checking the products, carving characters or patterns on the shafts ... all showing their abilities to handle a rush order from the United States. Looking around the walls I found scrolls of paintings and calligraphy, certificates of merit, strings of hair

and cases of writing brushes in all sizes scattered everywhere. Apart from the Gong's brush pen store, Qufu also produces three other treasures: Chinese pistachio wood carvings, rubbings from stone (stele) inscriptions and Nishan inkstone.

The first treasure is a type of wood carving unique to Qufu, once awarded a gold prize at the Paris International Expo. The pistachio wood used is also called "Kong wood", said to have been planted near the Confucius Temple by Zigong, one of Confucius' students, which later grew into a grove in the Confucius Forest. Main Chinese pistachio wood carvings include walking sticks, which have a history of 2,100 years, and ruyi (S-shaped ornaments), first created in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), a decorative item symbolizing auspiciousness.

Next to Xian in size, Qufu also holds China's largest stele forest, and ranks first in the country with its collection of 18 Han-dynasty steles. Steles are upright stone slabs, decorated with inscriptions. Since ancient times people have made rubbings from the inscriptions on these steles which make fine collectors' pieces and gifts. Popular at present are the rubbings of Han (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and Wei (220-265) and the Six Dynasties (222-



1. The Gong family at work
2. Brush pens with portrait of Confucius carved on the shaft
3. Copper plate carved with the image of Confucius and other souvenirs
4. Chinese pistachio wood "ruyi" – a traditional handicraft of Qufu
5. Nishan inkstone
6. Products of Fuxinghe Brush Pen Store



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589). Some are even sold in bound volumes and include inscriptions of celebrities dating back to the Jin and Tang dynasties.

Nishan inkstone earns its name from the material found on Nishan Hill, the birthplace of Confucius. Orange in colour with a fine texture, the inkstone has black veins of uneven density which grind down to produce a smoky ink, said to be one of the best in China. 

Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang
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Xuanzhong Monastery

Birthplace of the Sukhavati Sect

The Xuanzhong Monastery nestles deep in the mountains of Shanxi Province. It features prominently in the general history of Chinese Buddhism, and in particular that of the Sukhavati (Pure Land) Sect. Built during the Northern Wei Dynasty in 472 by the sect, it was the domain of Dao Chuo, a high monk who dedicated his life to propagating the creeds of Buddhism. It holds further importance as the remains of Shan Dao, believed to be a reincarnation of Amitabha, were buried here. The monastery is regarded as the birthplace of the Chinese Sukhavati Sect and its Japanese denomination, the Jodo Sect.

In early May 1994 I went to visit the monastery, in time to see the consecration of the newly erected bronze statues of two forefathers of the Sukhavati Sect. As my car swung away from the Central Shanxi Plain I embarked upon a highway half way up the stone cliffs of the undulating Shibi Mountain, which forms part of the Luliang Mountain Range. The Xuanzhong Monastery is sequestered in the midst of this range, at the far end of a quiet valley.

WELL-KNOWN MONASTERY

The Xuanzhong Monastery has been around for more than 1,500 years.

Buddhism found its way into China as early as the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220). It gained much ground in what is present-day Shanxi after the Northern Wei Dynasty unified the five northern kingdoms. Tan Luan, a prestigious monk

of the period, established this monastery in order to disseminate the holy messages of the Sukhavati Sect. The location was chosen because it was close to Bingzhou, a political, economic and cultural centre of the time.

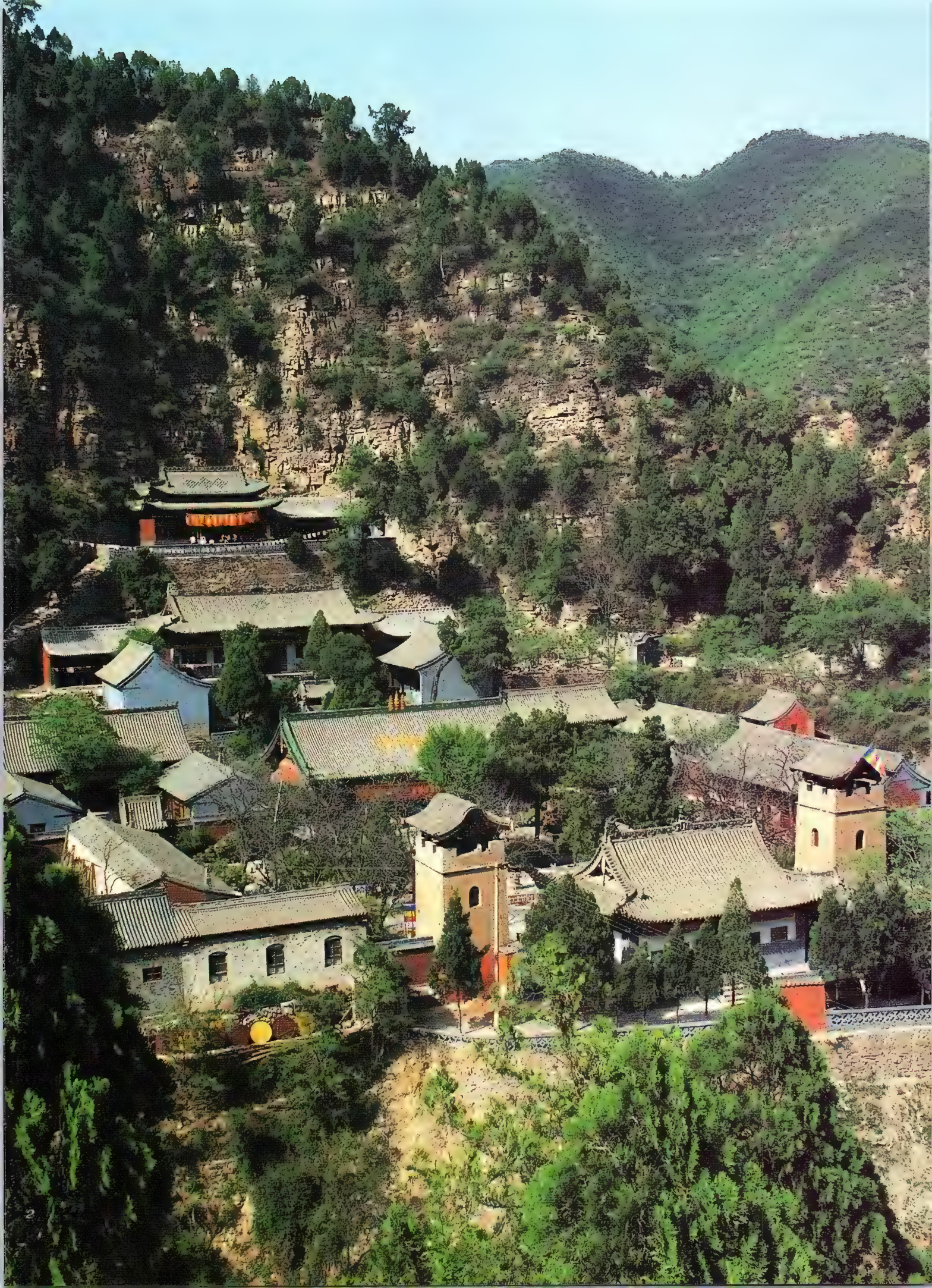
In about 597, the famous monk Dao Chuo visited the Xuanzhong Monastery to study Tan Luan's writings inscribed in the stone tablets within the compound. The deceased monk's spirit struck such a chord with him that he decided to stay and convert himself to the Sukhavati Sect. During his tenure as the abbot, the monastery grew considerably.

During the Tang Dynasty the development of Buddhism in China gained great impetus because of support from the emperors, who were as a rule pious Buddhists. As a result the Xuanzhong Monastery prospered. When Empress Wende fell sick in 635, her son, the Emperor Taizong, paid a visit to the monastery to pray for her health. Dao Chuo, who had gained widespread fame

1. Morning prayer session in the Hall of Mahavira

2. The Xuanzhong Monastery, tucked away in Shibi Mountain







by then, presided over a grand ceremony to pray for an effective cure for the empress. In return for his services, the emperor named the monastery "Yong-ning (Everlasting Tranquility) Monastery of the Shibi Mountain", thereby turning the monastery into an officially sanctioned Buddhist establishment. A stone tablet was erected in memory of this event.

In the year 813, the imperial court commissioned the building of an altar in the Xuanzhong Monastery. The altar was reorded in Chinese Buddhist history as one of the "Three Major Ordination Altars Under Heaven", along with the Altar of Divination in Chang'an (the Western Capital) and the Altar of Congregated Benevolence in Luoyang (the Eastern Capital).

In 1269, during the Yuan Dynasty, Guang An, the abbot of the monastery, was made an official in charge of local religious affairs. As a result, the monastery acquired more land on which the monks planted thousands of cypress and pine trees. Now with as many as 40 monasteries

and temples in North China under its jurisdiction, the monastery's reputation has spread far and wide.

The tenacious efforts of successive abbots ensured a period of sustained development which spanned the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. But the Xuanzhong Monastery began to decline in the twilight years of the Qing Dynasty. Incessant natural adversities and war forced the monks to desert the monastery; by Guangxu's reign, it crumbled in disrepair.

It was not until 1956, when Monk Xiang Li became the abbot, that the many halls were restored and the monastery came into its own once again. Under the leadership of Ming Da, who became the abbot after Xiang Li's death, great efforts were made in reconstruction and in the collection of cultural relics.

SHRINE OF AMITABHA

The gateway to the Xuanzhong Monastery features three arches, in compliance with Buddhist tradition. The oldest

1. Inside the Hall of Mahavira

2. The brightly lit Hall of Mahavira ready for the ceremony to consecrate the bronze statues of the three Pure Land Sect masters.

3. In the Hall of Forefathers, bronze statues of the three masters of the Pure Land Sect sit in front of portraits presented by Japan's Jodo Sect.

4. These lotus seats are reserved for famous personages in the history of Japan's Jodo Sect.





structure in the compound, the Hall of Deva Kings, dates back to the Ming Dynasty. In the centre sits a statue of Maitreya, the Smiling Buddha with his trademark round belly, with four Deva Kings standing in attendance on all sides. Two of the Deva Kings look different from their usual images: one holds a sacred pennant, the other a pagoda.

The hall is flanked on either side by a bell tower and a drum tower which dominate the compound. Both towers feature crenellations which make them look like ancient castles. The bell, which is tolled in the morning, and the drum, beaten at dusk, are usually used to make clarion calls to the monks. During religious occasions they also serve as percussion instruments.

Each Buddhist monastery in China features a Hall of Mahavira (Great Hero), which is reserved for the statue of Sakyamuni, the father of Buddhism, but in the Xuanzhong Monastery this hall enshrines instead a statue of Amitabha. This is because in the Sukhavati Sect the Amitabha Buddha is regarded as the main idol and master of Paradise, the Pure Land of the West. It is believed that

Amitabha can usher in to Pure Land whoever keeps piously chanting the name of the Buddha. In the Sukhavati Sect the name of the Buddha chanted is none other than Amitabha himself. In front of the Hall of Mahavira I saw two pavilions, each housing a stone tablet. One tablet bears the title "Altar of Benevolence, Soaked in Sweet Morning Dew and Free from Impediments", and the other is inscribed with a portrait of Maitreya.

Having mounted a flight of stone steps behind the hall, I entered another courtyard. The hall there houses the gilded statues of seven Buddhas sitting on lotus pedestals. The Buddhas,

idols from different generations, are flanked by rows of cabinets which contain more than 1,000 volumes of Buddhist literature from the Ming Dynasty.

The Hall of Seven Buddhas has a corridor on either side. They shelter a variety of stone tablets which date back to the Northern Wei, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. In diverse calligraphic styles, the inscriptions recount the history of the monastery. The oldest of them, which was erected in the Northern Wei Dynasty, tells of the scale and influence of the monastery in its earliest days.

MECCA FOR JAPANESE JODO FOLLOWERS

The Thousand-Buddha Pavilion, which standing against a cliff, commands a view of the entire monastery. The pavilion is flanked on either side by a tiny courtyard. In the past the Hall of Forefathers contained no statues; all one could see there were portraits of the three masters: Tan Luan, Dao Chuo and Shan Dao. Depicted in monastic habit with different postures and facial expressions,

all three are vivid studies in mental concentration as they chant religious incantations. Thanks to their painstaking efforts, the Xuanzhong Monastery became the mecca for all those who believe that it is possible to achieve enlightenment by persistent chanting of the name of Buddha. Today, to the delight of all members of the sect, three bronze sculptures are now placed in front of the portraits along with pennants, banners, publications and various keepsakes presented by followers of the Japanese Jodo Sect. A number of lotus-shaped seats are placed there in honour of leaders of the Jodo Sect. Japanese members of the Pure Land Sect have long regarded the Xuanzhong Monastery as the birthplace of their belief.

The scripture *Ode to Tan Luan* written by Shinran, founder of the Jodo Sect, repeatedly refers to the monastery, but for centuries few knew where it was situated. More than 70 years ago, Daijo Tokiwa, a member of the Jodo Sect, went to China in search of the origin of his belief. On December 27, 1920, having experienced innumerable hardships, he finally found the Xuanzhong Monastery and saw the famed Sizhi Tablet which is an evidence of the monastery's venerated history. After he returned to Japan, Tokiwa produced the book *In Search of Historical Sites Associated with Chinese Buddhism*.

The Japanese Jodo Sect immediately adopted the Xuanzhong Monastery as its own birthplace. Regarding Tan Luan, Dao Chuo and Shan Dao as their Chinese ancestors, the sect included them among what they call "Seven Ancestors in Three Countries". As a result the monastery is frequented by Japanese pilgrims who come to marvel at what they believe is the cradle of their own Jodo Sect.

In the spring of 1980, the Japan-China Pure Land Sect Friendship Association sent a large delegation to the Xuanzhong Monastery, where they attended a grand religious ceremony to mark the 1,300th anniversary of the death of Shan Dao. Among the gifts the delegation presented to the monastery were a number of large gilded pennants inscribed with religious incantations.



1. A photograph of Sugahara, former abbot of a Tokyo monastery, is placed in the Hall of Forefathers by family members to show their respect for the three masters of the Pure Land Sect.
2. Hitoshi, son of Keikei Sugahara, and members of his Japanese delegation, paying their respects to the tomb of Sugahara.

CONSECRATION OF THREE BRONZE STATUES

It was 3:30 a.m. on May 10 when I was awoken by the tappings of wooden fish outside. By the time I stepped out of my room, the air already reverberated with the sound of drums and bells. The great hall overflowed with monks, nuns and laymen as they waited for the ceremony to commence. The ceremony was declared open with the last toll of the bell. The hall was brightly lit, and the monks stood in all solemnity as incense sticks were lit and sacrificial tributes laid out; then the smooth litany of prayers began, to the accompaniment of chimes and the beating of wooden fish. The sky gradually paled to reveal the undulating contours of the Shibi Mountain, which shimmered in the background. The blue vault of heaven was spangled with morning stars. The monks, palms together before their chests, filed out of the hall, murmuring incantations, and began circulating the compound. In the hazy morning light their outlines were blurred, and there was something ethereal about the whole scene.

When dawn broke, guests and pilgrims arrived in a constant stream, and the monastery was engulfed in a festive atmosphere.

On the altar in front of the hall, blazed two rows of butter lamps, along with several dozen red candles and two burning incense sticks, each more than a metre in height. The altar was heaped with a variety of food. As new arrivals added their share, the heap kept growing, so much so that the monks had to remove the surplus from time to time to keep the heap from collapsing.



At eight o'clock Hitoshi Sugahara, abbot of a Tokyo monastery and son of the celebrated Japanese monk Keikei Sugahara, arrived at the monastery with members of a Japanese delegation of Jodo Sect pilgrims. After lighting incense sticks in the hall and saying their prayers, the Japanese went to Keikei Sugahara's tomb to pay their respects.

The ceremony to consecrate the bronze statues of Tan Luan, Dao Chuo and Shan Dao began at 10 o'clock. In front of the Hall of Mahavira and the Hall of Forefathers, thousands of pilgrims stood, reading the rosaries and chanting prayers. Some of them came from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and South Korea; some from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan; and others from China. After paying their tribute to the three forefathers, the monks in the courtyard raised several dozen round mirrors and used them to reflect the rays of the sun

into the hall and onto the bronze statues. Thus the ceremony, an event long awaited by followers of the Pure Land Sect around the world, came to magnificent end. At that moment, a wave of clouds emerged from the northern sky; they came scattered, then rolled together to resemble human forms. Immediately upon reaching the rooftop of the monastery they evaporated into thin air, leaving the sky azure and spotless. Monks and pilgrims alike were thrilled, for, according to their interpretation, the Amitabha Buddha had just made his omnipotent appearance. 

Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang
Translated by Ling Yuan



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BUSINESS TIPS

BANKING & FINANCE

Suzhou's First Foreign Bank

France's Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) became the first foreign bank to set foot in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, when it opened a representative office earlier this year through its Shanghai-based joint-venture bank, International Bank of Paris and Shanghai (IBPS). Set up in November 1992, IBPS is a joint venture between BNP and China's largest bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

Suzhou has captured interest from foreign investors trying to escape rising costs in Shanghai. Also, its proximity to Shanghai and aggressive promotion by local officials have proved a strong magnet for foreign investment.

Liaoning Plans Renovation

Liaoning Province, the hub of heavy industry in northeast China, plans to spend US\$13.13 billion renovating its petrochemical, metallurgical, machinery and electronic industries. Over US\$4 billion is expected to be raised from overseas backers for the renovation. The province is also looking to foreign banks and financial institutions to supply US\$400 million each year for the next five years in long- and medium-term loans.

Investment Opportunities in Tianjin

Tianjin, north China's largest port city, looks likely to remain a hotspot for overseas investors. Multinational companies are a major source of foreign investment in Tianjin and the city aims to attract a further US\$100 billion over the next five years.

Shanxi Shops for Foreign Investment

Shanxi Province has already started projects to upgrade its infrastructure in a

bid to attract more foreign investment into the fields of energy, transport, raw materials and other basic industries, as well as high-technology, agriculture and export-oriented projects.

In the capital, Taiyuan, expansion of the airport is almost complete, and the expressway linking Taiyuan with Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Shandong will soon be opened. Seven double-track electric railways extending to coastal ports such as Qinhuangdao, Qingdao, Yantai, Shijiu and Lianyungang are also complete.

Foreign investment will be used in new forms in addition to establishing Sino-foreign joint ventures, co-operative ventures and wholly-owned firms by overseas investors. New forms such as BOT (build, operate and transfer) and transferring part of the shares in projects will be introduced. Foreign investors in the province's power, transport and telecommunications industries will enjoy preferential policies.

HSBC Office Opens in Chengdu

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has opened a representative office in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan. Seven other overseas banks, including the Standard Chartered Bank and the Tokyo Bank, have already set up offices in the province.

Joint Venture Service Centre Opens in Qingdao

A centre providing services for foreign businessmen who want to start a joint venture in China has opened in Qingdao after a two-month trial operation. Housed in the city's World Trade Centre, it brings together 22 local government departments under one roof.

EVENTS

Xinjiang to Hold Trade Fairs

The Xinjiang government is sponsoring two fairs in Urumqi this year, starting with an International Public Relations Fair in July, followed by the Foreign Trade Fair in September. A total of 37 projects in the

fields of petrochemical, textile, power, manufacturing and agricultural will be available for investment bids.

Zhuhai to Host '96 Air Show

Zhuhai is in the midst of building a 220,000-square-metre exhibition hall as part of the preparations for hosting this year's airshow. Construction is expected to be completed at the end of August. More than 550 domestic and overseas vendors will attend the show.

Chemical Industry Fair

The 1996 International Chemical Industry Fair (ICIF'96) is to be held in Beijing from September 23-27. More than 1,800 domestic companies and 300 foreign enterprises will be represented during this five-day show at the China International Exhibition Centre. While engineering projects being offered for investment, chemical and petro-chemical products, equipment and technology will also be displayed.

International Textiles Exhibition

Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, will host this year's international textiles trade fair from August 8-12. Sponsored by The China National Garments Corporation and the China Garment Association, the exhibition will display garments as well as raw textiles and processing machinery. The event's organizers hope that the five-day show will attract further overseas investment and technology to China's textile industry.

MARKETING

GTE Investment

US-based General Telephone Equipment Co (GTE) announced an investment of US\$28 million in a telecommunications project in Guangdong Province at a ceremony for the opening of GTE China's new representative office in Beijing. GTE China has signed an agreement with Guangzhou Guangtong Resources Co for a joint venture of wireless telecommunications.

EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

Major Hotels in Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan and Xinjiang

Jinan, Shandong

Qilu Hotel

齊魯賓館

8 Qianfoshan Road, Jinan, Shandong 250014

Tel: (0531) 2966888 Fax: (0531) 2967676

Telex: 39142 QLHJN CN

GM: Wang Zhixian

Opened 15 April 1986

229 rooms and suites

Located 36 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Qingdao, Shandong

China Travel Service International Hotel

中旅國際大酒店

57 Zhanliugan Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266071

Tel: (0532) 5828666 Fax: (0532) 5814190

Telex: 32197 CTSQD CN

GM: Zheng Zhongjian

Opened June 1991

163 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 10 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Haitian Hotel

海天大酒店



39 Zhanshan Avenue, Qingdao, Shandong 266071

Tel: (0532) 3871888 Fax: (0532) 3871777

GM: Xin Keting

Opened 28 October 1988

640 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Huanghai Hotel

黃海飯店



75 Yan'an Road 1, Qingdao, Shandong 266003

Tel: (0532) 2870215 Fax: (0532) 2879795

Telex: 32151 BOOTH CN

GM: Zhai Shende

Opened 18 May 1983

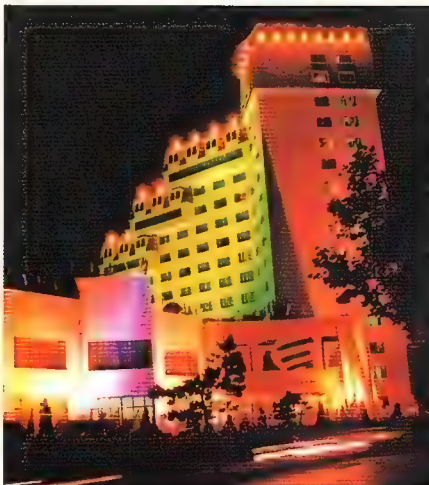
350 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Huatian Hotel

華天大酒店



20 Taiping Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266071

Tel: (0532) 2871900 Fax: (0532) 2867128

GM: Li Guangxiang

Opened 18 May 1993

198 rooms and suites

Located 23 km from airport, 0.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, baby sitting, steam bath

Huiquan Dynasty Hotel

滙泉王朝大酒店



9 Nanhai Road, Qingdao, Shandong 260003

Tel: (0532) 2873366 Fax: (0532) 2871122

GM: Thomas Yeung

Opened May 94

420 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, tennis courts, steam bath

Qufu, Shandong

Que Li Hotel

闕里賓館

1 Queli Road, Qufu, Shandong 273100

Tel: (0537) 4411300 Fax: (0537) 4412022

Telex: 399004 BTHQF CN

GM: Qian Guangchun

Opened 17 April 1986

164 rooms and suites

Located 180 km from airport, 16 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Qufu Grand Hotel

曲阜大酒店



Hongdao Road North, Qufu, Shandong 273100

Tel: (0537) 4418888 Fax: (0537) 4414039

GM: Zhao Ning

Opened 8 September 1995

90 rooms and suites

Located 50 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Tai'an, Shandong

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑大廈

Dongyue Street Central, Tai'an, Shandong 271000

Tel: (0538) 8228112 Fax: (0538) 8228171

GM: Wang Mingfa

Opened October 1989

205 rooms and suites

Located 70 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Taishan Guest House

泰山賓館

26 Hongmen Road, Tai'an, Shandong 271000

Tel: (0538) 8224678 Fax: (0538) 8221432

GM: Zhan Xinguo

Opened 1 August 1980

110 rooms and suites

Located 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Weifang, Shandong

Fu Wah Hotel

富華大酒店

Beihai Road, Weifang, Shandong 261031

Tel: (536) 8881988 Fax: (536) 8880766

GM Patrick K.L. Pau

Opened 1995

246 rooms and suites

Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, tennis courts, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Yuan Fei Hotel

鸞飛大酒店

31 Siping Road, Kuiwen, Weifang, Shandong 261041

Tel: (0536) 8236901 Fax: (0536) 8233840

Telex: 324202 YFHW CN

GM: Smith Li

Opened 31 March 1987

368 rooms and suites

Located 5 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, tennis court, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Yantai, Shandong

Asia Hotel

亞細亞大酒店



116 Nanda Street, Yantai, Shandong 264000

Tel: (0535) 6247888 Fax: (0535) 6242625

GM: Zhao Bingquan

Opened 28 November 1991

142 rooms and suites

Located 10 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Zoucheng, Shandong

Zelin Hillview Hotel

揮鄰山庄

129 Gangshan Road, Zoucheng, Shandong 273500

Tel: (0537) 5292901 Fax: (0537) 5292279

GM: Lu Xiumin

Opened August 1991

75 rooms and suites

Located 60 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage

Taiyuan, Shanxi

Bingzhou Hotel

并州賓館

32 Yingze Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001

Tel: (0351) 4042111 Fax: (0351) 4033540

GM: Liu Zhonggui

320 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath

Shanxi Grand Hotel

山西大酒店

5 Xinjian Road South, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001

Tel: (0351) 4043901 Fax: (0351) 4043525

GM: Hu Xiren

166 rooms and suites

Located 13 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Shanxi Sports Guesthouse

山西體育賓館



9 Sports Road, Dayingpan, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030012

Tel: (0351) 7072357 Fax: (0351) 7040569

156 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, facilities for the handicapped

Yingze Hotel

迎澤賓館

51 Yingze Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030025

Tel: (0351) 4043211 Fax: (0351) 4042941

GM: Tan Zhoujun

443 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall,

disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath

Chengdu, Sichuan

Chengdu Grand Hotel

成都大酒店



29 Section 2, Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081

Tel: 3333888 Fax: 3336818

Telex: 600349 CHDGH CN

GM: Wang Zize

Opened 8 October 1990

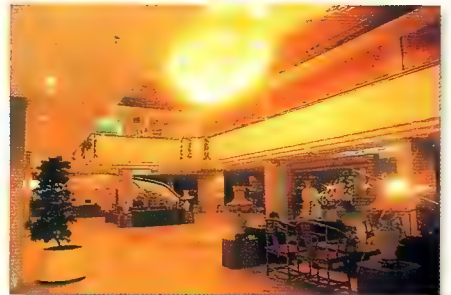
456 rooms and 12 suites

Located 20 km from airport, 200 m from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dance hall, beauty salon, gym, shopping arcade, massage, bar

Chengdu Hotel

成都飯店



East Section of Shudu Road, Chengdu, Sichuan 610066

Tel: 4444112, 4448888 Fax: 4441603

Telex: 60164 CDHOT CN, 600077 CHMKT CN

Opened 18 May 1984

310 rooms

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference hall, business centre, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, sauna, massage, clinic, karaoke, disco, coffee shop, function rooms

Jinhe Grand Hotel

金河大酒店

18 Jinhe Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031

Tel: 6642888 Fax: 6632037

Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN

GM: Long Guanyin

Opened 15 April 1991

400 rooms and 8 suites

Located 18 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: revolving restaurant, banquet hall, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, disco, dance hall, business centre, billiard room

Jinjiang Hotel

錦江賓館

80 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610014

Tel: 5582222 Fax: 5582348

Telex: 60109 JJH CN

GM: Luo Lixian

Opened May 1960

523 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference halls, banquet hall, shopping arcade, nightclub, KTV, billiards, sauna, massage, swimming pool, tennis court, gym, bowling

Minshan Hotel

岷山飯店



55 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610021

Tel: 5583333 Fax: 5582154

Telex: 60247 MSH CN

GM: Li Li

Opened 18 January 1988

422 rooms and suites

Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, shopping arcade, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pool, beauty salon, sauna

Tibet Hotel

西藏飯店

10 Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081

Tel: 3333988 Fax: 3333526

Telex: 60309 THC CN

GM: He Shengqiu

Opened 18 February 1988

359 rooms and suites

Located 22 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, beauty salon, massage, recreation centre

Zhufeng Hotel

珠峰賓館

107 Shangxi Shuncheng Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610015

Tel: 6662441 Fax: 6671717

Telex: 600023 ZHGH CN

Opened 15 March 1988

270 rooms

Located 20 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Urümqi, Xinjiang

Bogeda Hotel

博格達賓館

10 Guangming Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 223910 Fax: (0991) 215769

GM: Li Chenglin

270 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards

Friendship Hotel

友誼賓館

62 Yan'an Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001

Tel: (0991) 264220 Fax: (0991) 263573

GM: Aizezi Maimaitili

149 rooms and suites

Located 27 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, gym, massage

Hongshan Hotel

紅山賓館



108 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 2824232

GM: Cui Shouliang

Opened 1 October, 1975

140 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, beauty salon, massage

Holiday Inn

新疆假日大酒店



168 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 218788 Fax: (0991) 217422

GM: Roland Steiner

Opened 8 May 1993

383 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Islam Grand Hotel

伊斯蘭大酒店

22 Zhongshan Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 211017 Fax: (0991) 211513

GM: Zhao Shukun

77 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon

Kunlun Hotel

崑崙賓館

51 Youhao Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000

Tel: (0991) 440411 Fax: (0991) 440213

GM: An Jinming

Opened 1959

397 rooms and suites

Located 16 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, baby sitting

Laiyuan Hotel

徠遠賓館

3 Jianshe Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000

Tel: (0991) 228368 Fax: (0991) 225109

GM: Wang Baoguo

68 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, shopping arcade, exhibition hall, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, massage, gym

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑賓館

51 Xinhua Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001

Tel: (0991) 260793 Fax: (0991) 260622

GM: Song Qiwei

East Building opened September 1955, South Building September 1985

295 rooms and suites

Located 22 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, massage

Xinjiang Electric Power Guesthouse

新疆電力賓館

57 Minzhu Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 222911 Fax: (0991) 226031

GM: Yao Haikuo

85 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurant, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Xinjiang Sports Hotel

新疆體育賓館

3 Renmin Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002

Tel: (0991) 227962 Fax: (0991) 228074

GM: Ubulhasan

134 rooms and suites

Located 26 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, bar, conference rooms, clinic, tennis courts, baby sitting, business centre

Wonders of the Qin Mausoleum: Far Beyond the Clay Figures



When Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China, was enthroned in 246 B.C. at the age of 13, he began to construct his mausoleum in present-day Lintong County, Shaanxi Province. The construction lasted for 37 years. The pits of warrior and horse clay figures were to be one of the largest construction projects of the mausoleum.

Today, it is estimated that approximately 7,000 warriors, several hundred horses and 100 wooden war chariots have been unearthed from Pit Nos. 1, 2 and 3. They have all been made to life-size portions, the height of the figures ranging from 1.7 to 1.9 metres, the sturdy horses about 1.5 metres high and two metres long, even the chariots bear a strong resemblance to real ones. With so many clay figures standing in full battle array, visitors are stunned by the magnificent sight.

The ranks of warriors consist of three different types: generals, officers and soldiers. The countenance of the high-ranking, powerful generals are moulded to be thoughtful, tenacious, circumspect and farsighted; military officers being staunch, firm and serious; and

the soldiers being acute, brave and resourceful. Apart from their overall character, each has his own individuality, differing from the others in shape and look. They are meticulously sculpted, even the top knots on their heads, the way their hair ribbons fall, and the curls of hair are all clearly moulded, and the stitches on the soles of the shoes worn by the warriors at kneeling shoot are engraved. The horse figures are delineated to have four or six teeth, which indicate that they are steeds in the prime of life.

The clay figures were created through a series of processes combining sculpting with moulding. Different parts were made separately, carefully engraved, then fired in the kiln and lastly painted. The temperature required for the kiln is 1,000-1,050 °C. People of modern times have summarized the method of producing the clay figures and tried to replicate them at the end of the 1970s. Through joint effort, several of the workers managed to produce a few semi-finished clay figures, but only succeeded in firing one. As for replicating the full-size clay horse figures, no one has so far succeeded.

Mysteries Yet to Be Explained

Architecture: Two thousand years ago, it was apparently impossible to construct such a large, complicated structure on earth to house over 7,000 clay warriors and horses. So Qin-dynasty architects developed and adapted the building materials and techniques available at that time, adopted the method of using earth and wood to shore up the tunnels and succeeded in completing this huge, unique underground construction.

Metallurgy: A long sword was bent by the weight of a clay warrior figure weighing several hundred kilogrammes. After excavators removed the clay warrior figure, the bent sword miraculously became straight. How did the Qin-dynasty people managed to forge a sword that did not lose its elasticity in over two thousand years? It transpired that all the blades of the swords slung over the warrior figures' shoulders had been chromium-plated. In modern times chromium-plating requires electricity, and the electroplate was only invented by an American in 1937 and patented by a German in the 1950s. So, how was it then possible to use chromium-plating during the Qin Dynasty? No wonder a Western specialist having inspected the sword, exclaimed: "We need to rewrite metallurgical history."

Chemistry: About 10 different kinds of paint colours are used on the clay figures. Some dyes like red, black and white can be produced directly from natural minerals, but some others must be made through chemical art. The element of purple, for example, was only synthesized in the 1980s. By use of this colour the Qin-dynasty clay figures have, therefore, crowned the Chinese with the title of the earliest practitioners of chemistry. ☐

Photos by Wang Miao
Translated by Xiong Zhenru



Flights to and from Jinan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Jinan	1 3 6	08:00	09:00	X2 101
	4 6	10:15	11:00	MU5118
	1 3 5 7	14:10	15:05	MU5118
	2	15:30	16:20	MU5118
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:50	19:45	MU5124
	2 4 5 7	21:25	22:20	SC102
Jinan — Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:30	09:20	MU5117
	1 3 6	16:30	17:35	X2 102
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:10	18:10	MU5123
	2 4 5 7	19:35	20:30	SC101
Changchun — Jinan	3 6	08:50	13:15	CJ6551
Jinan — Changchun	3 6	14:15	18:10	CJ6552
Chendu — Jinan	2 5	07:15	19:10	SZ4603
	1 4 6	07:35	09:50	3U595
	7	07:55	10:15	3U597
	1	15:40	17:50	CJ6466
	5	17:20	19:25	SC156
	3	17:20	19:25	SC156
Jinan — Chengdu	5	07:55	10:00	SC155
	3	07:55	10:00	SC155
	1	12:30	15:00	CJ6465
	7	16:25	18:55	3U598
	1 4 6	16:50	19:20	3U596
	2 5	17:50	20:05	SZ4604
Chongqing — Jinan	4	08:50	10:50	SZ4549
	1	17:35	19:25	SZ4549
Jinan — Chongqing	4	11:30	13:40	SZ4550
	1	20:00	22:15	SZ4550
Dalian — Jinan	3 6	11:25	13:15	CJ6551
Jinan — Dalian	3 6	14:15	16:05	CJ6552
Fuzhou — Jinan	1 3 5	15:20	17:15	IV8547
	3	18:00	19:40	MU5596
	1 4 6	19:30	21:05	MU5566
Jinan — Fuzhou	2	08:45	10:30	MU5595
	1 4 6	12:10	13:50	MU5565
	1 3 5	17:55	19:50	IV8548
Guangzhou — Jinan	2 4 6 7	08:05	10:45	CZ3509
	6	10:00	12:50	G8 537
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:55	14:25	MU5328
	1 4 6	13:40	16:15	3U392
	7	18:45	21:20	SC138
	1 4	19:45	22:20	SC138
Jinan — Guangzhou	7	07:50	10:30	SC137
	1 4	08:35	11:15	SC137
	1 4 6	10:30	12:55	3U391
	2 4 6 7	11:25	14:05	CZ3510
	6	13:25	16:00	G8 538
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:15	17:50	MU5327
Haikou — Jinan	4	13:20	17:30	MU5356
	3 7	15:40	19:20	CJ6356
Jinan — Haikou	4	08:05	12:30	MU5355
	3 7	11:20	15:00	CJ6355

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Harbin — Jinan	1	09:20	11:50	CJ6465
	2 7	14:00	16:00	3Q4652
	2 5 6	15:00	17:10	SZ4604
		16:20	18:20	SC182
Jinan — Harbin	6	08:05	10:10	SC181
	2 5	09:50	11:55	SZ4603
	2 7	11:10	13:10	3Q4651
	1	18:30	20:30	CJ6466
Kunming — Jinan	2 7	07:50	10:20	3Q4651
	5	08:00	10:30	3Q4653
	4 7	11:50	14:45	SC146
	1 3 6	13:15	15:55	X2 102
Jinan — Kunming	4 7	08:10	11:10	SC145
	1 3 6	09:40	12:30	X2 101
	5	11:20	14:10	3Q4564
	2 7	16:45	19:40	3Q4652
Nanjing — Jinan	2 6	07:55	09:35	3W569
Jinan — Nanjing	2 6	10:15	11:50	3W570
Shanghai — Jinan	2	09:15	10:35	MU5598
	1 3 4 5 6 7	15:00	16:20	MU5578
	3	16:55	18:15	MU5598
	3	17:40	19:00	SC128
	6	17:40	19:00	SC128
	2	19:40	20:55	SC128
	5	20:05	21:20	SC128
Jinan — Shanghai	1 3 4 5 6 7	08:00	09:15	MU5577
	3	10:55	12:10	SC127
	6	10:55	12:10	SC127
	2	12:40	14:05	MU5597
	2	17:45	19:00	SC127
	5	18:00	19:25	SC127
	3	19:45	21:20	MU5597
Shenyang — Jinan	3 7	08:50	10:40	CJ6355
Jinan — Shenyang	3 7	20:00	21:20	CJ6356
Shenzhen — Jinan	2 5	11:20	14:10	SC136
	6	14:10	16:40	CZ3561
	3	16:00	18:30	CZ3561
Jinan — Shenzhen	2 5	07:50	10:35	SC135
	6	17:20	19:50	CZ3562
	3	19:10	21:45	CZ3562
Urümqi — Jinan	3 5 7	09:35	15:10	XO9509
	2	15:05	21:10	SC162
Jinan — Urümqi	2	08:10	14:30	SC161
	3 5 7	15:50	21:55	XO9510
Wenzhou — Jinan	1	09:10	11:10	CJ6723
	1	16:40	18:40	SC126
	4	16:40	18:40	SC126
	2 5 7	18:10	19:50	MU5568
Jinan — Wenzhou	4	07:55	10:05	SC125
	1	08:05	10:10	SC125
	1	11:50	13:55	CJ6724
	2 5 7	15:40	17:30	MU5567

Flights to and from Jinan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Wuhan — Jinan	1 3 6 2 5	12:50 19:25	14:50 20:40	WU557 MU5398
Jinan — Wuhan	1 3 6 2 5	15:30 17:05	17:40 18:35	WU558 MU5397
Xiamen — Jinan	1 3 5 7 6 4 6 3	07:20 13:35 15:20 15:35 18:20 18:50	09:30 15:45 17:00 17:30 20:40 21:10	MF8519 3U802 MU5330 MU5356 SC308 SC308
Jinan — Xiamen	4 6 6 3 1 3 5 7	08:05 08:10 08:35 08:50 10:10 10:50	10:05 10:05 10:50 11:10 12:20 12:55	MU5355 MU5329 SC307 SC307 MF8520 3U801
Xi'an — Jinan	3 5 7 2	13:25 19:25	15:10 21:10	XO9509 SC162
Jinan — Xi'an	2 3 5 7	08:10 15:50	09:55 17:30	SC161 XO9510
Zhuhai — Jinan	6	13:10	17:00	MU5330
Jinan — Zhuhai	6	08:10	12:20	MU5329

(Valid to October 26, 1996)

Flights to and from Qingdao

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Qingdao	1 2 3 4 5 2 5 2 6 7 4 7 1 3 4 5 6 7 2 5	08:20 09:20 10:00 13:00 14:00 15:35 17:15	09:40 10:40 11:00 14:20 15:25 16:40 13:15	CA1569 MU525 MU5114 CA1583 X2 129 MU5114 X2 129
Qingdao — Beijing	2 5 1 3 4 5 6 7 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 4 7 1 3 4 6 7 2 5 2 5	07:00 08:10 08:10 15:10 15:10 16:05 17:40 19:00 19:05	08:20 09:15 09:15 16:20 16:20 17:15 18:40 20:20 20:00	MU5119 MU5113 MU5113 CA1570 CA1570 X2 130 MU5115 MU526 X2 130
Chengdu — Qingdao	2 5	08:20	10:35	SZ4511
Qingdao — Chengdu	2 4 7	11:20	14:00	SZ4512
Chongqing — Qingdao	2 4 7	07:15	09:15	SZ4551
Qingdao — Chongqing	1 5	18:20	20:55	SZ4552
Guangzhou — Qingdao	1 2 4 6 2 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:00 10:00 18:55	10:45 13:10 21:30	CZ3533 G8 601 MU5322
Qingdao — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 4 6 2 5	08:00 11:25 13:40	11:00 14:15 16:55	MU5321 CZ3534 G8 602

Flights to and from Qingdao

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Kunming — Qingdao	4 7	07:30	10:05	3Q4565
Qingdao — Kunming	4 7	10:45	13:50	3Q4566
Lanzhou — Qingdao	1 3 5	08:50	12:40	WH7573
Qingdao — Lanzhou	1 3 5	13:25	17:35	WH2574
Macau — Qingdao	3 6	11:40	14:45	F6 428
Qingdao — Macau	3 6	15:45	19:10	F6 427
Osaka — Qingdao	2 5	16:15	18:00	MU526
Qingdao — Osaka	2 5	11:40	15:15	MU525
Seoul — Qingdao	1 2 3 4 5	14:00	14:30	CA128
Qingdao — Seoul	1 2 3 4 5	10:25	12:50	CA127
Shanghai — Qingdao	1 5 2 6 1 3 5 7 1 4 5 7 2 6 1 4 7 1 3 4 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:40 12:05 13:45 14:15 15:00 15:10 17:10 19:55	09:40 13:15 15:00 15:20 16:10 16:25 18:30 20:55	SF651 X2 305 SZ4570 MU5508 MU5508 4G805 MU5585 MU5570
Qingdao — Shanghai	1 3 4 6 7 2 6 1 4 5 7 2 6 1 3 5 7 1 5 1 4 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:00 07:50 07:50 13:55 15:45 15:50 17:05 17:55	08:20 08:50 08:50 15:05 17:10 17:00 18:20 19:05	MU5586 MU5507 MU5507 X2 306 SZ4569 SF652 4G806 MU5569
Shenzhen — Qingdao	1 4 1 4 7	11:15 12:15	14:00 16:25	CZ3651 4G805
Qingdao — Shenzhen	1 4 7 1 4	17:05 18:10	21:20 21:50	4G806 CZ3652
Urumqi — Qingdao	4	09:25	15:15	XO9513
Qingdao — Urumqi	4	15:55	22:25	XO9514
Zhengzhou — Qingdao	5 7 4	07:35 13:55	09:40 15:15	Z2 357 XO9513
Qingdao — Zhengzhou	5 7 4	10:20 15:55	12:30 17:25	Z2 358 XO9514

(Valid to October 26, 1996)

Flights to and from Ürümqi

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Aksu — Ürümqi	1 3 5 7	11:55	14:10	XO9916
Ürümqi — Aksu	1 3 5 7	09:00	11:25	XO9915
Alma Ata Ala — Ürümqi	1 5	11:05	14:40	XO712
Ürümqi — Alma Ata Ala	1 5	09:50	09:35	XO711
Altay — Ürümqi	2 4 6	11:30	13:00	XO9920
Ürümqi — Altay	2 4 6	09:30	11:00	XO9919
Beijing — Ürümqi	6	10:45	14:55	CJ6901
	4	10:50	15:05	CJ6961
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:40	18:50	XO9102
	2	18:25	22:25	XO9602
	1 4 5 6 7	19:15	23:15	XO9104
	2 4 6	19:25	23:25	XO9512
Ürümqi — Beijing	3 5 7	21:10	01:00	XO9312
	2 4 6	08:15	11:45	XO9511
	3 5 7	08:15	11:45	XO9311
	2	08:45	12:15	XO9601
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:05	13:30	XO9101
	1 4 5 6 7	14:55	18:25	XO9103
Chengdu — Ürümqi	6	15:40	19:25	CJ6902
	4	15:45	19:30	CJ6962
	2 4 7	08:10	11:40	SZ4901
	4 7	08:50	12:30	3U901
	1 4	12:10	15:30	3Q4961
	1	13:15	16:45	SZ4901
Ürümqi — Chengdu	1 3 5	13:25	17:05	XO9402
	2 6 7	17:30	21:20	XO9406
	2 6 7	09:15	12:50	XO9405
	1 3 5	09:15	12:35	XO9401
	2 4 7	12:20	15:30	SZ4902
	4 7	13:10	16:40	3U902
Chongqing — Ürümqi	3 6	07:40	12:45	SZ4941
Ürümqi — Chongqing	3 6	13:30	18:20	SZ4942
Guangzhou — Ürümqi	2 3 5 7	08:55	14:20	CZ3911
	4 5	14:15	19:35	XO9302
	1 2 3 7	14:15	19:35	XO9302
	6	15:30	22:00	XO9308
	3 5 7	16:55	01:00	XO9312
Ürümqi — Guangzhou	3 5 7	08:15	15:55	XO9311
	4 5	08:35	13:15	XO9301
	1 2 3 7	08:35	13:15	XO9301
	6	08:35	14:45	XO9307
	2 3 5 7	15:15	19:55	CZ3912
Hotan — Ürümqi	1 3 5	19:45	21:30	XO9908
Ürümqi — Hotan	1 3 5	17:10	19:05	XO9907
Islamabad — Ürümqi	3 7	11:15	16:45	XO722
Ürümqi — Islamabad	3 7	10:10	09:45	XO721
Karamay — Ürümqi	1 4 6	13:55	15:15	XO9940
Ürümqi — Karamay	1 4 6	09:20	10:45	XO9939

(Valid to October 26, 1996)

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Kashi — Ürümqi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	21:15	22:55	XO9902
	3 4 6 7	21:25	23:10	XO9904
Ürümqi — Kashi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:40	20:35	XO9901
	3 4 6 7	18:50	20:45	XO9903
Korla — Ürümqi	3 6	14:40	16:25	XO9932
	1 2 5 7	15:30	17:15	XO9934
Ürümqi — Korla	3 6	09:10	10:55	XO9931
	1 2 5 7	09:10	10:55	XO9933
Kunming — Ürümqi	1 4	10:25	15:30	3Q4961
	2 6 7	15:35	21:20	XO9406
Ürümqi — Kunming	2 6 7	09:15	14:50	XO9405
	1 4	16:20	21:40	3Q4962
Kuqa — Ürümqi	3 6	12:50	16:25	XO9932
Ürümqi — Kuqa	3 6	09:10	12:30	XO9931
Lanzhou — Ürümqi	2 6	08:15	11:00	WH2905
	3 6	10:00	12:45	SZ4941
	1 4	15:00	17:40	WH2907
	3 7	19:40	22:30	XO9606
Ürümqi — Lanzhou	3 7	09:05	11:30	XO9605
	2 6	11:40	14:15	WH2906
	1 4	11:55	14:10	WH2908
	3 6	13:30	16:10	SZ4942
Moscow — Ürümqi	5	12:45	00:30	XO702
Ürümqi — Moscow	5	09:30	11:35	XO701
Qiemö — Ürümqi	1 2 5 7	13:20	17:15	XO9934
Ürümqi — Qiemö	1 2 5 7	09:10	13:00	XO9933
Shanghai — Ürümqi	1 3 6 7	14:20	19:30	XO9502
	4	14:20	19:30	XO9502
	2 4 6	16:10	23:25	XO9512
Ürümqi — Shanghai	2 4 6	08:15	14:55	XO9511
	1 3 6 7	08:45	13:15	XO9501
	4	08:45	13:15	XO9501
Shenzhen — Ürümqi	1 4 6	15:35	22:30	XO9304
Ürümqi — Shenzhen	1 4 6	08:25	14:45	XO9303
Tacheng — Ürümqi	1 4 6	12:40	15:15	XO9940
Ürümqi — Tacheng	1 4 6	09:20	12:10	XO9939
Tashkent — Ürümqi	3	12:05	16:25	XO714
Ürümqi — Tashkent	3	09:50	10:35	XO713
Yining — Ürümqi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:40	19:25	XO9918
	1 3 5	17:50	19:40	XO9922
Ürümqi — Yining	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:20	17:10	XO9917
	1 3 5	15:30	17:20	XO9921
Zhengzhou — Ürümqi	2 6	13:40	18:00	CZ3977
	4	18:05	22:25	XO9514
Ürümqi — Zhengzhou	4	09:25	13:15	XO9513
	2 6	18:35	22:20	CZ3978

Climatic Conditions in Gansu, Guangzhou, Guizhou, Henan, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang and Yunnan

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Gansu	Lanzhou	Temperature (°C)	-6.9	-2.3	5.2	11.8	16.6	20.3	22.2	21.0	15.8	9.4	1.7	-5.5
		Rainfall (mm)	1.4	2.4	8.3	17.4	36.2	32.5	63.8	85.3	49.1	24.7	5.4	1.3
Guangzhou		Temperature (°C)	13.3	14.4	17.9	21.9	25.6	27.2	28.4	28.1	26.9	23.7	19.4	15.2
		Rainfall (mm)	36.9	54.5	80.7	125.0	293.8	287.8	212.7	232.5	189.3	69.2	37.0	24.7
Guizhou	Guiyang	Temperature (°C)	4.9	6.5	11.5	16.3	19.5	21.9	24.0	23.4	20.6	16.1	11.4	7.1
		Rainfall (mm)	19.2	20.4	33.5	109.9	194.3	224.0	167.9	137.8	93.8	96.6	53.5	23.8
Henan	Luoyang	Temperature (°C)	0.3	2.7	8.6	15.4	21.3	26.6	27.5	26.2	21.2	15.3	8.3	2.3
		Rainfall (mm)	6.9	12.5	25.4	45.1	47.0	66.3	141.5	95.8	74.7	46.0	30.6	9.3
Shanxi	Datong	Temperature (°C)	-11.3	-7.7	-0.1	8.3	15.4	19.9	21.8	20.1	14.3	7.5	-1.4	-8.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	3.9	9.9	19.3	29.1	45.1	95.1	94.1	51.2	23.7	8.1	1.5
	Taiyuan	Temperature (°C)	-6.6	-3.1	3.7	11.4	17.7	21.7	23.5	21.8	16.1	9.9	2.1	-4.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	6.0	16.3	23.8	30.1	52.6	118.3	103.6	64.3	30.8	13.2	3.4
Sichuan	Chengdu	Temperature (°C)	5.5	7.5	12.1	17.0	20.9	23.7	25.6	25.1	21.2	16.8	11.9	7.3
		Rainfall (mm)	5.9	10.9	21.4	50.7	88.6	111.3	235.5	234.1	118.0	46.4	18.4	5.8
	Chongqing	Temperature (°C)	7.5	9.5	14.1	18.8	22.1	25.2	28.6	28.5	23.8	18.6	13.9	9.5
		Rainfall (mm)	19.7	19.5	39.3	89.7	157.8	166.4	142.4	138.4	136.3	97.3	47.8	25.0
Xinjiang	Urümqi	Temperature (°C)	-10.7	-7.7	-0.4	8.4	14.9	19.2	20.9	19.9	14.2	6.3	-2.1	-8.3
		Rainfall (mm)	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.3	3.7	17.1	18.5	11.8	7.2	0.6	0.4	1.0
Yunnan	Dali	Temperature (°C)	8.7	10.6	13.4	16.2	18.9	19.9	20.1	19.3	18.1	15.3	11.6	8.8
		Rainfall (mm)	16.8	25.5	32.1	20.3	66.7	187.9	179.3	229.0	157.4	116.9	34.6	12.4
	Kunming	Temperature (°C)	7.7	9.6	13.0	16.5	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.1	17.5	14.9	11.3	8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	11.6	11.2	15.2	21.1	93.0	183.7	212.3	202.3	119.5	85.0	38.6	13.0

Train Schedules Beijing — Tianjin West — Jinan — Xuzhou — Shanghai

265 F.T.	251 F.T.	161 F.T.	109 F.T.	Train Station	No.	110 F.T.	162 F.T.	252 F.T.	266 F.T.
		20:58	12:30	Beijing		17:05	16:20		
23:09		—	—	Beijing South		—	—		10:15
01:24		23:16	14:54	Tianjin West		15:07	14:10		08:04
02:55		01:15	16:33	Cangzhou		13:23	12:26		05:56
04:48		02:56	18:18	Dezhou		11:38	10:49		04:22
06:07		—	19:36	Yancheng		—	09:32		02:48
—	19:07	—	—	Jinan East		—	—	06:37	—
07:03	—	05:03	20:40	Jinan South		09:33	08:44	06:21	02:04
08:10	20:27	06:10	21:47	Tai'an		08:10	07:26	05:14	00:36
09:29	21:53	07:29	23:06	Yanzhou		06:59	06:14	04:02	23:16
10:30	22:51	—	00:07	Tengzhou		06:04	—	03:06	22:11
—	00:58	10:14	01:55	Xuzhou		04:28	03:39	01:26	—
12:29	—	—	—	Xuzhou West		—	—	—	20:10
	02:10	11:32	03:14	Suxian		03:12	02:00	00:02	
	03:39	12:38	04:37	Bengbu		01:46	00:35	22:38	
	05:36	14:31	06:36	Chuzhou		23:40	22:42	20:35	
	06:49	15:48	08:12	Nanjing		22:32	21:49	19:37	
	08:14	17:14	10:03	Danyang		20:52	20:11	17:45	
	09:22	18:02	11:15	Changzhou		20:05	19:31	16:58	
	10:12	18:43	12:04	Wuxi		19:27	18:53	16:13	
	10:56	19:24	12:44	Suzhou		18:42	18:05	15:30	
	—	—		Shanghai West			—	—	
	12:04	20:38	✓	Shanghai			16:43	14:17	

Average Temperature (°C) in Shandong

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Jinan	-1.4	1.1	7.6	15.2	21.8	26.3	27.4	26.2	21.7	15.8	7.9	1.1
Qingdao	-1.2	0.1	4.5	10.2	15.7	20.0	23.9	25.1	21.4	15.9	8.8	2.0
Weifang	-3.2	-1.0	6.1	12.5	19.1	23.6	25.9	25.2	20.2	14.2	6.5	-0.5
Zibo	-3.0	-0.6	6.1	13.8	20.2	25.1	26.9	25.5	20.5	14.2	6.5	-0.5
Yantai	-1.6	-0.5	4.3	11.2	17.8	21.7	24.7	25.0	21.2	15.6	8.4	1.6
Weihai	-1.5	-0.4	4.4	10.3	16.6	20.8	23.9	24.6	20.9	15.3	8.3	1.5
Tai'an	-2.7	-0.1	6.3	13.5	19.4	24.7	26.3	25.4	20.3	14.4	6.5	-0.3
Dezhou	-3.4	-0.8	6.0	14.0	20.7	25.5	26.9	25.5	20.6	14.1	5.9	-1.0
Qufu	-1.7	0.8	7.1	14.4	20.4	25.5	26.8	26.1	20.7	14.8	7.1	0.4
Jining	-1.9	0.9	7.3	14.2	20.2	25.4	26.9	26.0	20.7	14.8	7.1	0.4

Train Schedules Shanghai — Qingdao

232/233 F.T.	Train Station	No.	234/231 F.T.
21:04	Shanghai		17:42
22:15	Suzhou		16:38
23:05	Wuxi		15:51
23:43	Changzhou		15:08
02:02	Nanjing		13:03
03:00	Chuzhou		12:06
05:02	Bengbu		10:12
06:17	Suxian		08:29
07:38	Xuzhou		07:03
09:16	Tengzhou		05:10
10:14	Yanzhou		04:21
11:26	Tai'an		03:04
12:58	Jinan East		01:46
14:48	Zibo		23:49
15:14	Linzi		23:12
15:36	Qingzhou		22:49
16:34	Weifang		22:00
17:59	Jiaozhou		20:22
18:26	Lancun		19:53
19:25	Qingdao		18:54

Train Schedules Beijing — Qingdao

239 F.T.	Train Station	No.	240 F.T.
13:50	Beijing		11:08
15:58	Tianjin West		09:11
17:44	Cangzhou		07:25
19:46	Dezhou		05:37
21:02	Yucheng		04:33
22:23	Jinan East		03:38
00:24	Zibo		01:56
00:55	Linzi		01:14
01:44	Qingzhou		00:56
03:29	Weifang		23:59
04:54	Jiaozhou		22:21
05:56	Cangkou		21:18
06:50	Qingdao		20:53

Train Schedules Beijing — Lanzhou — Xining

75 Exp.	69 Exp.	Train Station	No.	70 Exp.	76 Exp.
09:22	21:24	Beijing		14:40	05:00
13:02	00:51	Shijiazhuang		11:20	01:24
16:13	03:38	Anyang		08:32	21:57
19:03	06:20	Zhengzhou		05:49	19:12
21:03	08:20	Luoyang		03:47	17:10
23:31	10:48	Sanmenxia West		01:23	14:46
03:16	14:22	Xi'an		21:47	10:59
12:22	22:55	Longxi		12:15	00:51
16:43	02:31	Lanzhou		08:18	20:29
21:26	—	Xining		—	15:52
	To Urümqi			From Urümqi	

Train Schedules Beijing — Lanzhou

43 F.T.	Train Station	No.	44 F.T.
11:01	Beijing		19:50
18:35	Datong		12:15
23:14	Hohhot		07:26
01:58	Baotou		04:41
04:39	Wuyuan		01:59
08:00	Wuhai		22:44
09:09	Shizuishan		21:40
11:10	Yinchuan		19:41
16:22	Gantang		15:02
21:18	Lanzhou		09:58

NEWS

TOURIST INFORMATION

Xinjiang's Adventure Programmes

Five new travel programmes launched by tourism authorities in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have been packaged and are being promoted by China National Tourism Administration.

The new itineraries include: rafting and shooting rapids on the Yarkant, Tarim (China's longest inland river at 2,000 kilometres) and Hotan rivers; hunting in 100 square kilometres of rare wildlife plateau habitat set aside in the Altun Mountains, where wild yaks, blue sheep and argali can be seasonally hunted; skiing on Nanshan Mountain near Ürümqi, where international skiing facilities are to be built on a large slope; touring a 5,000-kilometre-long section along the ancient Silk Road by car, taking in numerous ancient cities, folk customs and ethnic cultures; and lastly, trekking through the forests around Lake Manas, an undeveloped area containing precious trees such as the Siberian larch, Korean pine, dragon spruces and firs.

Xi'an Gets Cable Car

A 1,500-metre cablecar made in Austria has recently been put into operation on Huashan Mountain, near Xi'an, one of China's most famous mountains. Work on the cablecar began in July 1994 and will be a bonus to the thousands of people attracted to the area's beautiful scenery but wary of its dangerous peaks.

Restoration of Plank Road

A cliff face plank road used as early as the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.) is to be restored by the Shaanxi provincial government. It connects Shaanxi with neighbouring Sichuan Province and is regarded as China's third architectural wonder, the other two being the Great Wall and the Grand Canal.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Direct Sanya-Macau Link

A new airline service operated by Hainan (Macau) Tourism Group Co Ltd and North China Airlines Sanya Co Ltd, is now available between Haikou and Macau. The airline's MD-82 plane takes one hour and 15 minutes to complete the journey.

Overseas Flights to Xishuangbanna

Jinghong Airport servicing the famous scenic spot of Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, is now open to overseas flights. The airport, which officially went into operation in April 1994, has expanded and installed facilities in order to accommodate Boeing 737-300 planes and freighters.

Shijiazhuang-Hong Kong Route

A new air route between Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province and Hong Kong opened recently. Shijiazhuang Airport already operates 15 routes linking it to 18 other cities including Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shanghai.

Fuzhou Airport to Open

Changle International Airport in Fuzhou, the capital of coastal Fujian Province, will open for a trial period later this year as one part of 25 infrastructure projects over the next five years.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Tombs of the Ba People

Five tombs of the mysterious Ba people, a large ancient ethnic minority group who lived in the valley on the middle reaches of the Yangtse River, have been discovered in Changyang County, Hubei Province. Experts say their findings will contribute significantly to their studies. One tomb contains a skeleton 1.76 metres in length that is believed to be a person of high social status. The tomb also contains the largest oracle bone yet found in China. Made from an ox's shoulder blade it is 42 centimetres long and contains more than 100 holes. There is also an exquisite 26.6-centimetre-long big bone spoon, the best specimen of its kind.

Unfortunately the Xianglushi site will be submerged once the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest water conservation project, has been completed.

Buddhist Scriptures Found in Gansu

Researchers are excited about the discovery of 7,000 rolls of Buddhist scriptures dating back 500 years, which were found hidden inside a double wall in the ancient Dafo (Big Buddha) Temple in Zhangye City. The scriptures include 6,647 rolls printed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), 622 rolls written on painted satin with gold and silver powder, 15 volumes of Buddhist music and 20 Buddhist paintings, plus 200 rolls of scripture written in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). For Gansu Province, the discovery is the largest since the Dunhuang Grottoes.

Ancient Capital Discovered

Through aerial photography, archaeologists have found the ruins of a city dating back some 2,500 years in Hefei, Anhui Province. Experts say it is probably the site of the capital city of the State of Wu in its early days during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). The finding will contribute to the study of the early Wu, of which few historical documents are left.

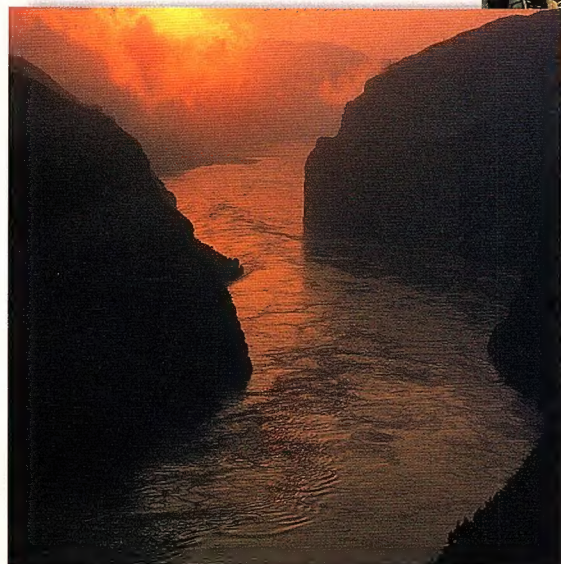
Tomb Under Palace Museum, Beijing

A tomb dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907) has been discovered underneath the Palace Museum, Beijing, during recent construction work of the world's largest underground storehouse for cultural relics.

The brick tomb has a gate and corridor leading into the burial room. A bronze mirror, pieces of grey pottery and part of a gravestone were the only articles found in the 4 by 4.5 metre chamber. Inscriptions on the gravestone show the tomb was built in 799. Interestingly, according to Chinese tradition, burials were never inside the city thereby indicating that the site of the Palace Museum, once the imperial residence of the Ming and Qing dynasties, was outside the city at that time. Historical records show that the site was not included in city until the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

NEXT ISSUE

Long Horn
Miaos in
Guizhou's
Liupanshui



Featuring the Three Gorges of
the Yangtse River

Families Producing Tang- Dynasty Tri-Coloured Glazed Pottery

The Yangtse River, the longest in China and the third longest in the world, cuts through a great variety of topography as it flows on its eastward journey from its source on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. In 1992 we featured the most famous stretch of this river, the Three Gorges, before a huge project to exploit its water resources got underway. The Three Gorges Dam project, as it is called, is the world's largest water conservation project yet. Next month we visit each of the gorges to compare the effects the project has had on this region known for its grandeur, inspiring landscape and stark charm.

We also spy in on the fascinating "cottage industry" reproducing Tang-dynasty pottery, and the traditions of the Long Horn Miaos of Liupanshui in Guizhou Province.

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ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

The Great Wall of Mutianyu



Mutianyu has a magic all of its own.

Mountainsides covered in cypress and fruit trees fall away either side of the huge ramparts. In spring the hillsides are covered in fragrant blossoms, turning to an emerald forest in summer. In autumn they are a blaze of crimson and russet, and are blanketed in silvery-white snow in winter.

This section of the wall was built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), starting with Juyongguan fort in the west and ending at Gubeikou (Ancient North Gate) in the East. The stretch is remarkable for its many stone forts of different shapes and styles, the concentration of which cannot be found anywhere else along the wall. This section was of strategic importance in protecting Beijing



from Northern invaders. Located 70 kilometres northeast of the city, it is easy to reach by bus No. 916 from Dongzhimen (East Gate) in Beijing.

Only officially opened in 1987, Mutianyu had become the favourite Beijing place to visit by 1992. Despite this, it has the blessing of fewer crowds than those at Badaling. It has many facilities on site, including Chinese and Western restaurants, souvenir shops and art galleries. There is also a cable car to take visitors directly to the wall itself.

Nearby is the China Dream Rock City and the Luming Wildlife Park especially designed for people to have a look firsthand at the local wildlife.

Come and experience the magic.

For enquiries, contact: Mr. Zhang Yuefu (General Manager)

Mutianyu, Huairou County, Beijing 101405 Tel: (010) 6962 6505 / 6964 2022 Fax: (010) 6964 4813

敦煌
DunHuang
Cigarettes



Dunhuang Grottoes, built up from AD 386-1367 (the Northern Wei Dynasty - the Yuan Dynasty), are among the greatest existing treasure troves of Buddhist art in the world. Dunhuang Cigarettes, one of the famous brand manufactured by Shanghai Cigarette Factory (1925-1995), China.



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